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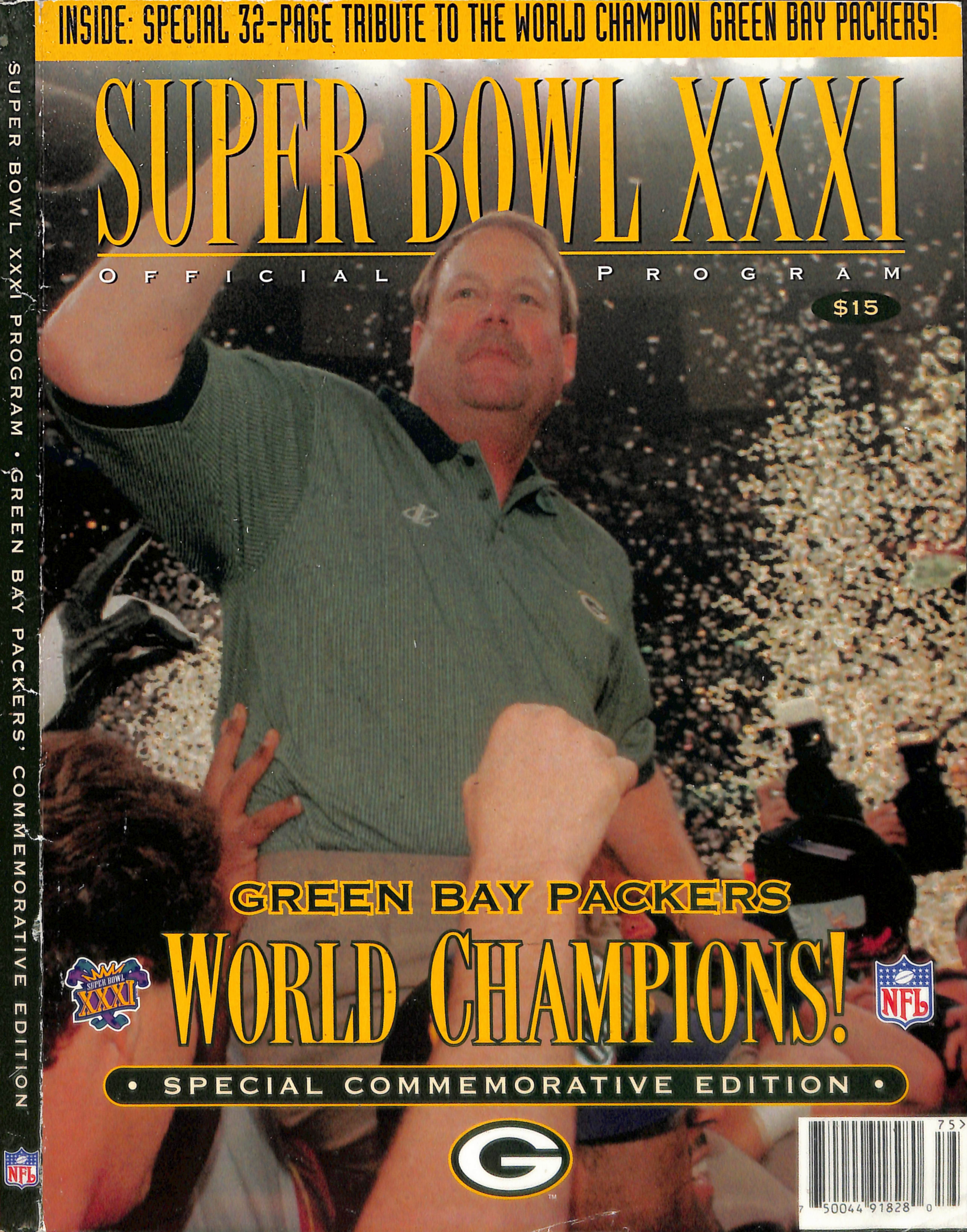

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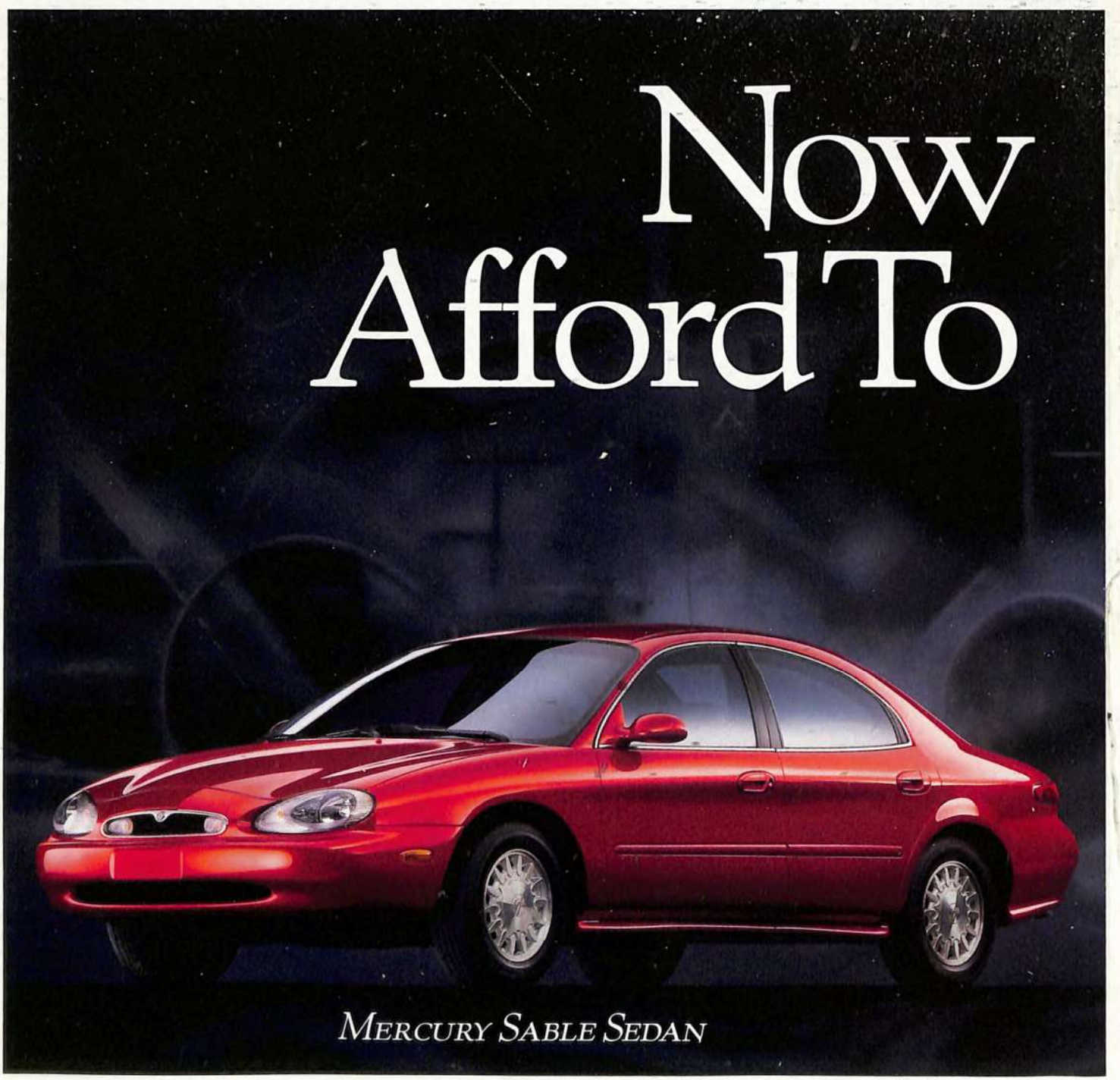

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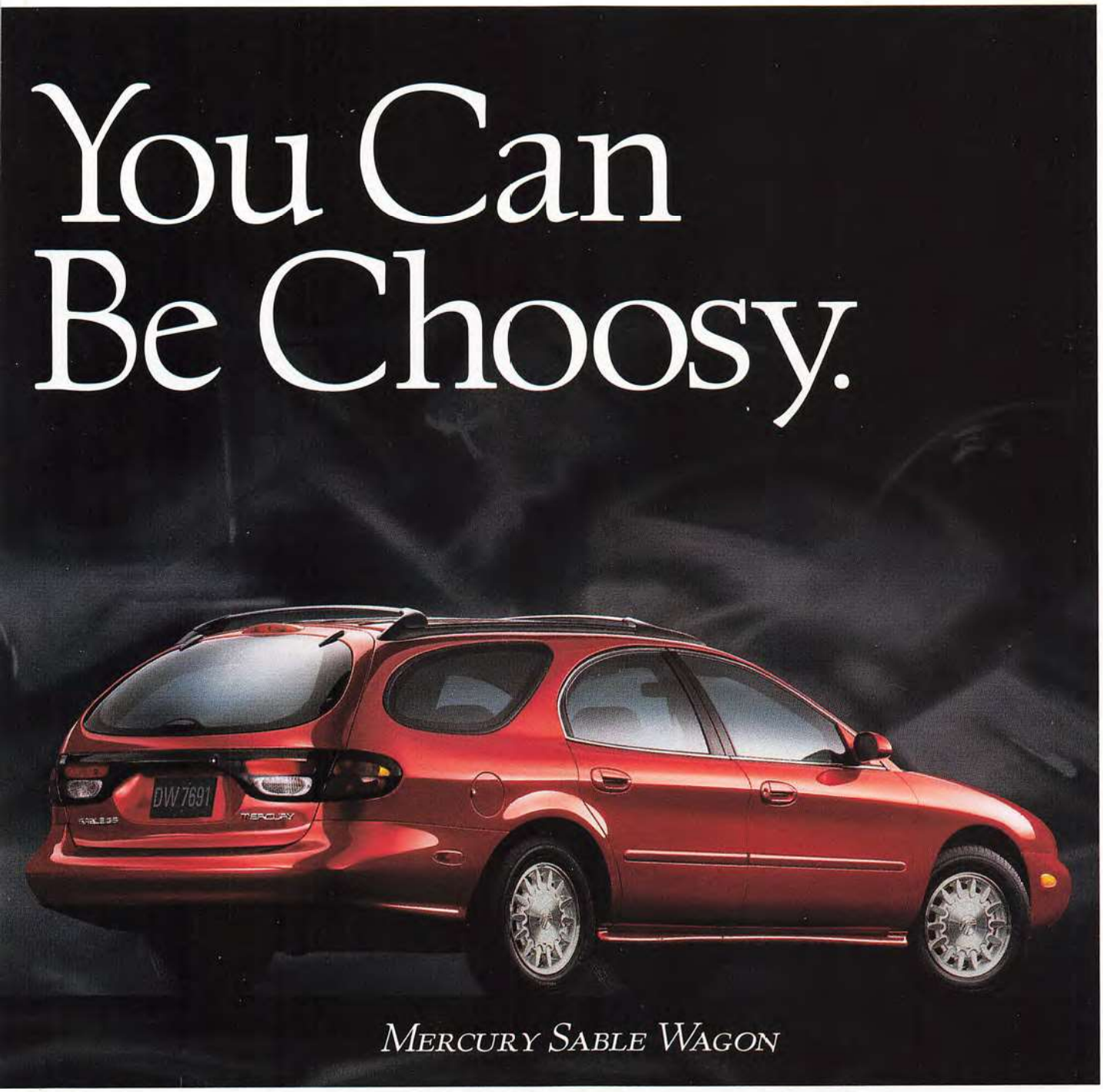

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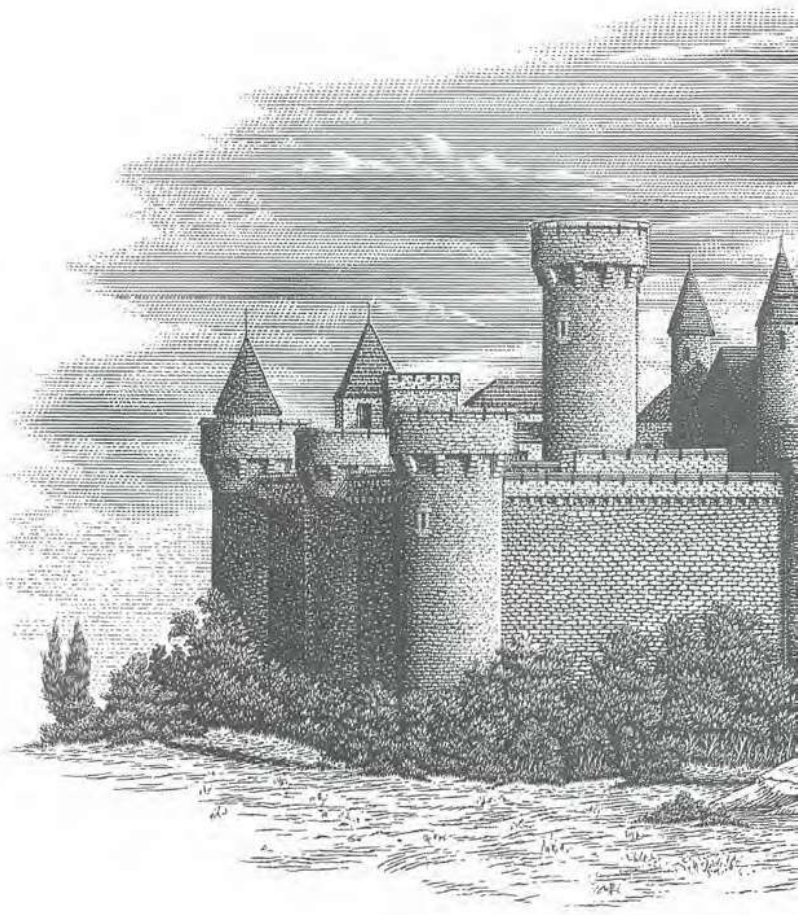

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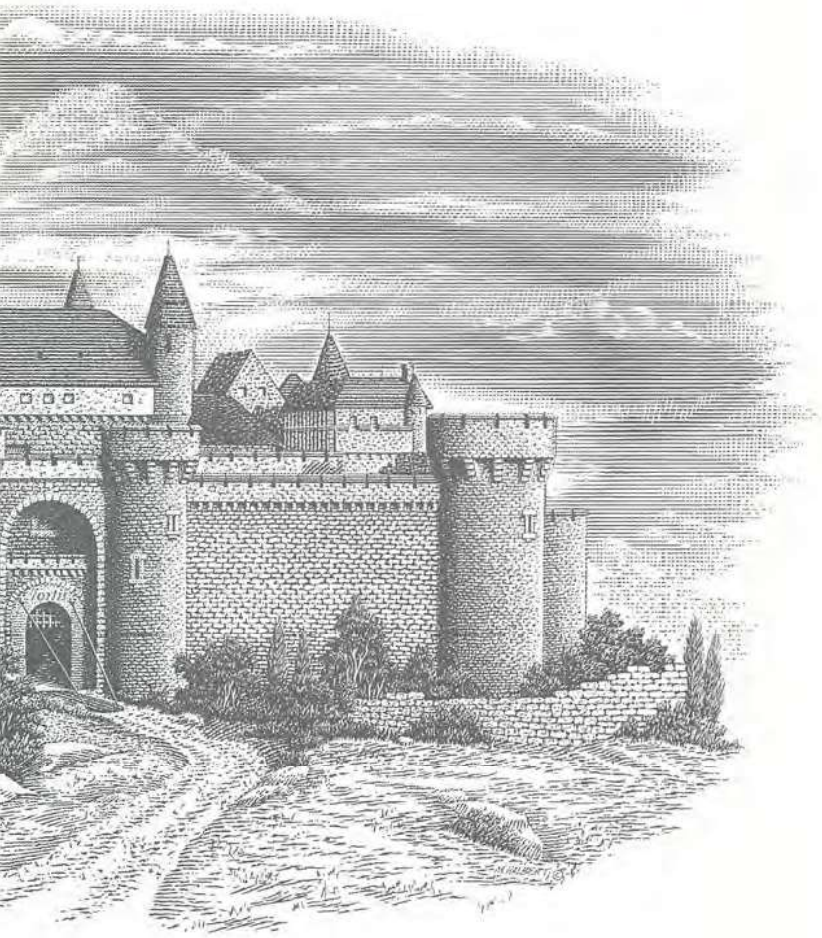

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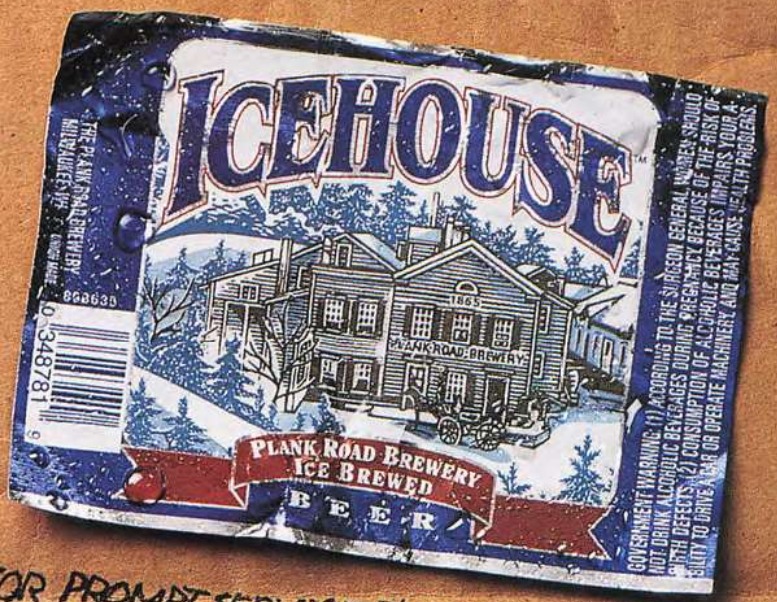
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CONTENTS

Super Bowl XXXI

super week

The biggest event on the sports calendar is more than just a game. It's a week's worth of activities—from The NFL Experience to the gala halftime show.

17

scouting report

What will determine the outcome of Super Bowl XXXI? Here is an insightful look, piece by piece, at how the opponents in today's game match up.

33

rozelle remembered

The men who worked alongside him—and those who wrote about him—share some of their favorite memories of the former NFL Commissioner.

96A

super bowl spotlight

Enjoy a colorful assortment of features, including profiles of former stars Terry Bradshaw and Archie Manning, a nightlife tour of New Orleans, and much more.

98

1996 replay

Revisit the dramatic plays, record achievements, and surprising upsets that colored the 1996 season in this comprehensive week-by-week review.

215

A complete listing of all contents is on page 12

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PORSCHE

Contents

Super Bowl XXXI

15 **From the Inside** *by John Wiebusch*

Super Week

17 **Super Week** *by Jim Buckley*

Scouting Report

35 **NFC Overview**
39 **AFC Overview**
43 **NFC Passing**
44 **AFC Passing**
47 **NFC Rushing**
48 **AFC Rushing**
51 **NFC Pass Defense**
52 **AFC Pass Defense**
55 **NFC Rushing Defense**
56 **AFC Rushing Defense**
59 **NFC Special Teams**
60 **AFC Special Teams**
63 **How the NFC Champions Were Built**
66 **How the AFC Champions Were Built**
68 **NFC Alphabetical Roster**
70 **Starting Lineups and Numerical Rosters**
73 **AFC Alphabetical Roster**
75 **NFC Player Photos**
78 **AFC Player Photos**
80 **Super Bowl Owners**
84 **Official Signals**
89 **Super Bowl Records**
95 **Super Bowl at a Glance**

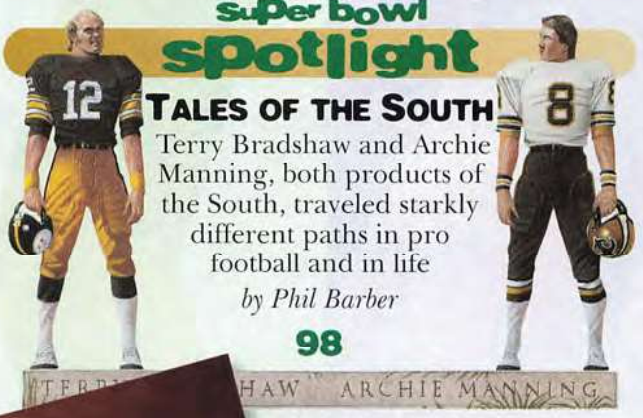
1996 Replay

215 **1996 Replay** *by Jim Gigliotti*
257 **1996 Statistical Leaders**
260 **1996 NFC Results and Standings**
262 **1996 AFC Results and Standings**

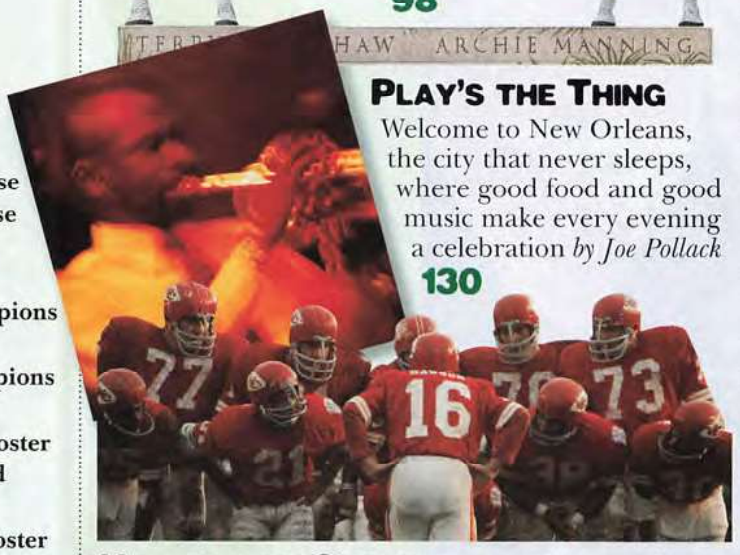
Rozelle Tribute

96A **Pete** *Some of the men who knew Pete Rozelle best—colleagues within the NFL and sportswriters from across the country—share their memories of the former NFL Commissioner.*

Super Bowl Spotlight



TALES OF THE SOUTH Terry Bradshaw and Archie Manning, both products of the South, traveled starkly different paths in pro football and in life *by Phil Barber* **98**



PLAY'S THE THING Welcome to New Orleans, the city that never sleeps, where good food and good music make every evening a celebration *by Joe Pollack* **130**

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS Kansas City carved out a special place in history with a victory in the first New Orleans Super Bowl *by Jim Gigliotti* **144**

10 TIMES XXX Ten sportswriters, who have attended every Super Bowl, reflect on their most vivid memories and favorite players *by Tom Barnidge* **160**

GIANTS OF THE GAME A close-knit championship team reunites 40 years later *by Ray Didinger* **174**

SUIT UP AND SEE THE WORLD Pro football, European style *by Jim Buckley* **187**

BEST SHOTS A colorful, hard-hitting photographic gallery of some of the best action images captured during the 1996 NFL season **194**

Essays

127 **Discovering Football and Innocence...** *by Andrei Codrescu*
141 **Scoopman Talks** *by Scott Ostler*
157 **Everything Has Changed, Nothing Is Different** *by Jerry Kramer*
169 **He Is What He Writes** *by Andy Rooney*

Staff

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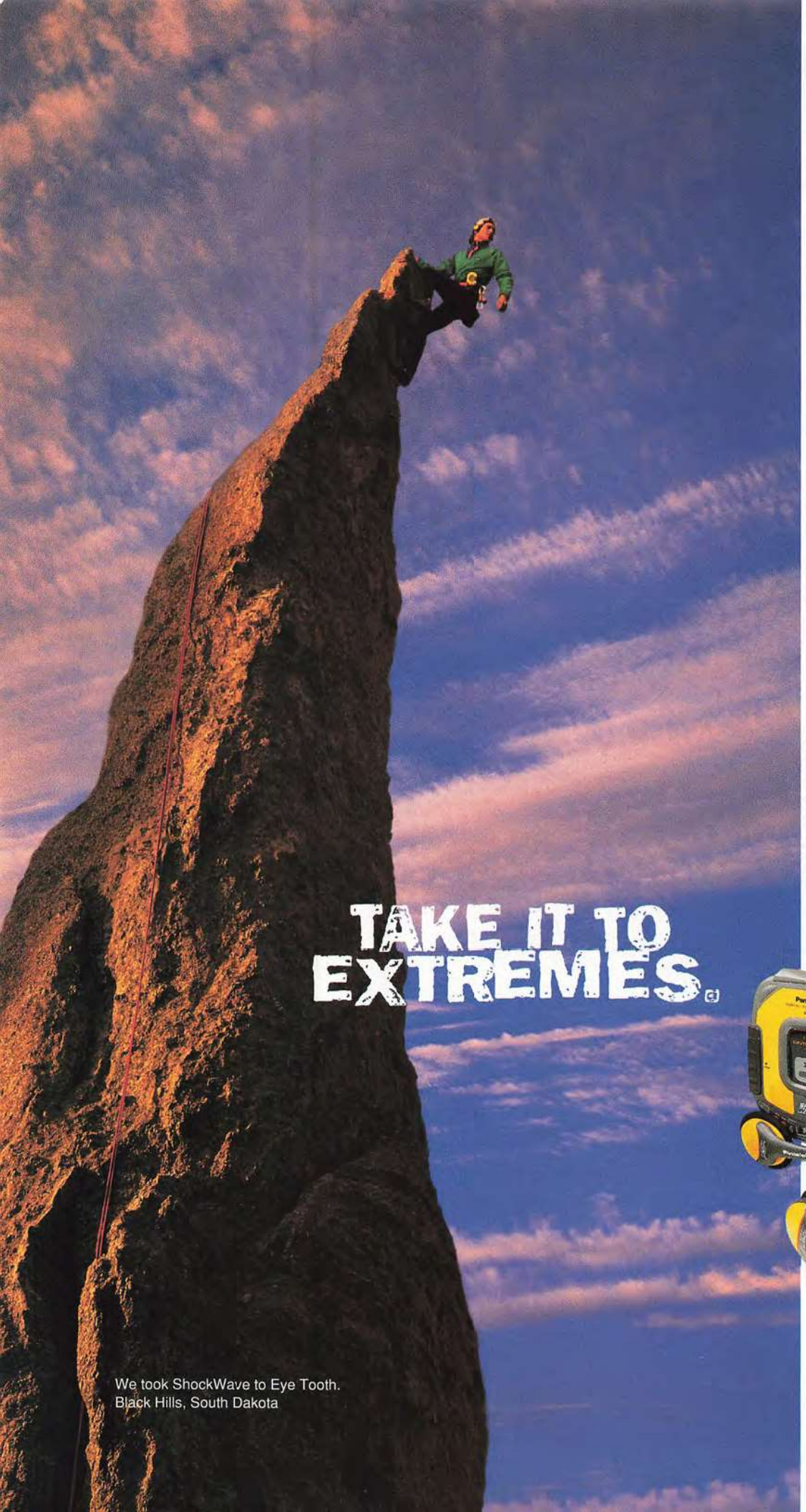

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Goose Bumps

By John Wiebusch

He never liked the word "super." He thought it was corny, a cliché. But the name stuck to the game he founded because it fit.

He never liked the word "super." But it fit something else, too.

For 29 years, and more, he was our Superman.

Pete Rozelle's phone booth was an office on Park Avenue in New York. His super powers included his remarkable persuasiveness. He had the rare gift of making the subject of his conversation feel as if he or she were the only person who mattered. Incredibly, he even managed to do this when he spoke to groups.

I joined NFL Properties in December, 1970, and I witnessed my first Pete Rozelle press conference on the Friday before Super Bowl V in Miami. I stood in the back of the room at the Fontainebleau Hotel, and what I saw left me breathless. He not only answered the questions, but he expanded on them. He got laughs when he wanted them, and he got applause when the session ended.

I never missed another Super Bowl Friday press conference. It was his unofficial State of the NFL address, and he rode the waves with consummate style.

Me, I always stood in the back of the room, as if being there would hide my goose bumps.

You don't stay with the same employer for decades unless there is a good reason. In a special tribute to Pete that begins on page 96A, you will find the names of Joe Browne, Jim Heffernan, Jim Kensil, Don Klosterman, Val Pinchbeck, Tex Schramm, Jim Steeg, Paul Tagliabue, Don Weiss, and me. Combined, we have some 250 years of service to the National Football League.

Pete Rozelle was our reason.

In that same tribute are nine of the men who did their share of firing the tough questions at Rozelle over all those years. The writers are Ray Didinger, Larry Felser, Jerry Green, Mickey Herskowitz, Will McDonough, Jim Murray, Bob Oates, Edwin Pope, and Paul Zimmerman. They also represent the writer Pete once aspired to be.

In 1990, I interviewed Pete for the background that became the foreword to the twenty-fifth anniversary Super Bowl book we were doing for Simon & Schuster (the foreword is reprinted at the end of the special tribute).

We were finishing the session in his office, which overlooked the sylvan stables of Gene Klein and Wayne Lukas, and he was pouring me yet another cup of coffee.

"You know, you have a great job," he said. "If someone had asked me forty years ago which job in the NFL I'd like to have, I'd have said yours."

"Yeah," I said, "and if someone had asked me which job I wanted I would have said yours!"

He laughed loudly. "I really mean it," he said. "Print was the most exciting thing to me then, and I still love reading all the media I can get my hands on."

As we were finishing, I asked him about the house he and his wife Carrie were building in the hills of Rancho Santa Fe. I asked if we could drive by it, and he gave me directions from the passenger's seat. "The house is just too big," he said. "It's so big it's embarrassing."

"You deserve a big house," I said. I glanced at him and he was shaking his head.

The framed house was not so much large as sprawling. Mostly, it had understated style. Like him. His embarrassment was a cover for his modesty.

He thanked me for coming down from Los Angeles. He told me he appreciated my taking time out of my busy schedule. He said he looked forward to seeing the book, although he knew he would like it.

And I know he meant every word he said.

In 1989, when he was in his final days as commissioner after his surprise retirement at the March owners' meetings, I had a valedictory interview with him in his office in New York.

Understated style...the office was the epitome of it. Lamps and leather couches and chairs, a simple but elegant desk table. And, in a flashback to an earlier time, an old, upright Underwood typewriter behind the desk. His personal notes always were typed in hunt-and-peck lower case and almost always closed with: "cheers," and a simple Pete signature. The office looked exactly as it did the first time I saw it 19 years before, right down to the Underwood.

"This is a great office," I said that spring day in 1989. "But it never really has shown off the trappings of your success."

"I like simple solutions to this kind of thing," he said, waving his arm around a part of the room. "Trophies and awards and that kind of stuff just aren't me."

Later that morning, I asked him how someone as sensitive as he was had been able to control the egos of NFL owners, beginning with the patriarchs such as Halas, Marshall, and Rooney, and continuing on through the young Turks who had come into the league in the 1980s after paying a lot of money for their franchises.

"I treated them all with respect," he said. "I never forgot who they were. But I also never forgot that I worked for the league in general and not for a club in particular."

He championed revenue sharing from the beginning, and the league prospered in small markets as well as large ones, with television monies and profits from NFL Properties and NFL Films divided equally.

It worked.

And everyone prospered.

The last time I saw him was at an awards dinner in New York a couple of years ago, six or eight months after he had undergone brain surgery. He had lost most of his hair and he looked tired. But that light-up-the-room smile still was there, and he rose from his chair to greet me. We talked about the Cowboys and the 49ers and about Carrie and Rancho Santa Fe, and he asked me how things were in Los Angeles. Then we said goodby.

I meant to drop him a note in his final months, but never did. I know he'll see this:

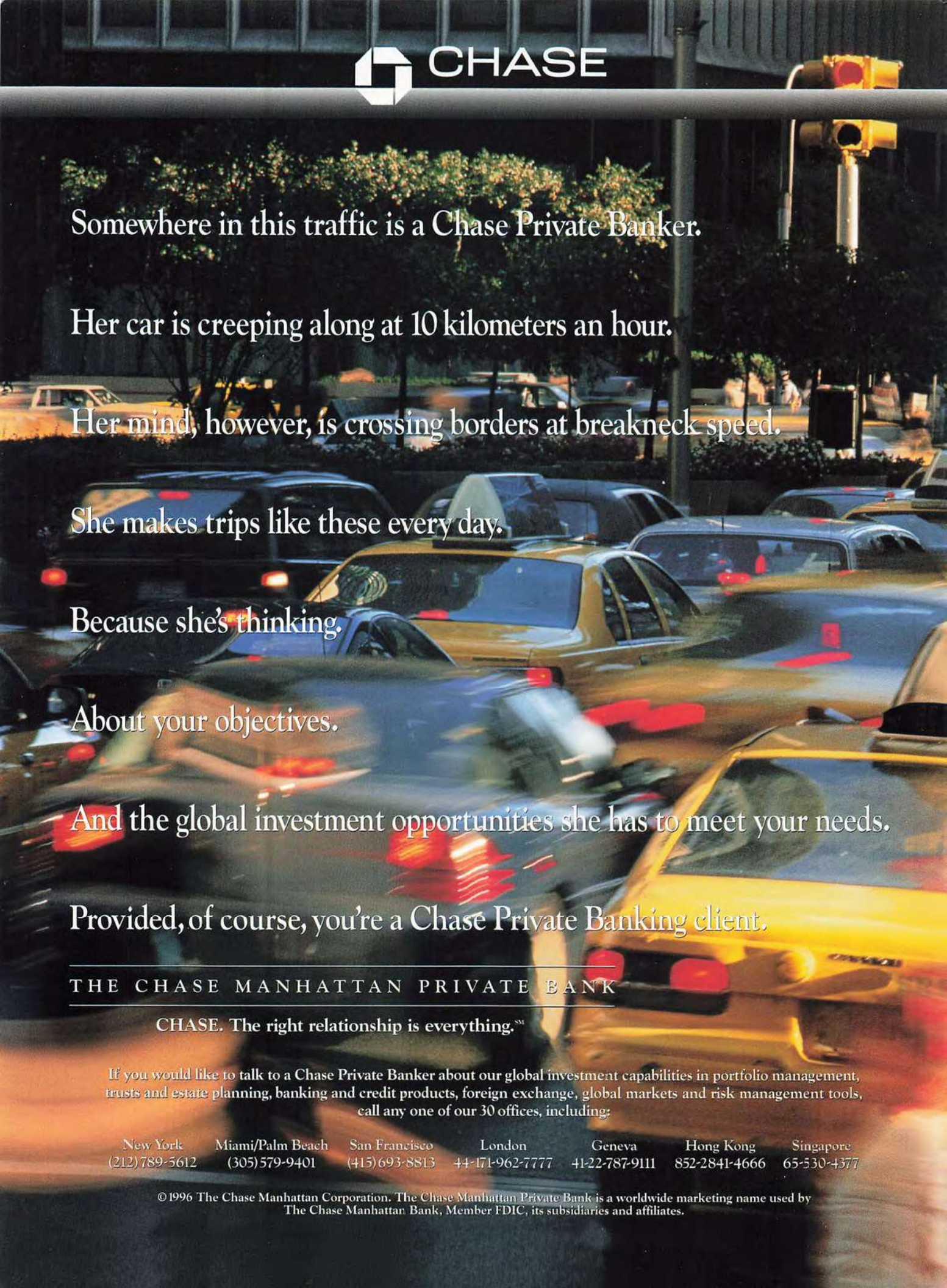
dear pete,

i think you know how i feel about what it was like to work for you and with you for two decades and to have known you for close to three.

but i wanted to tell you, anyway. i wanted you to know that you always made me so proud. the worlds of sports and entertainment are a richer place, literally and figuratively, because you were there.

you were...well, super.

cheers,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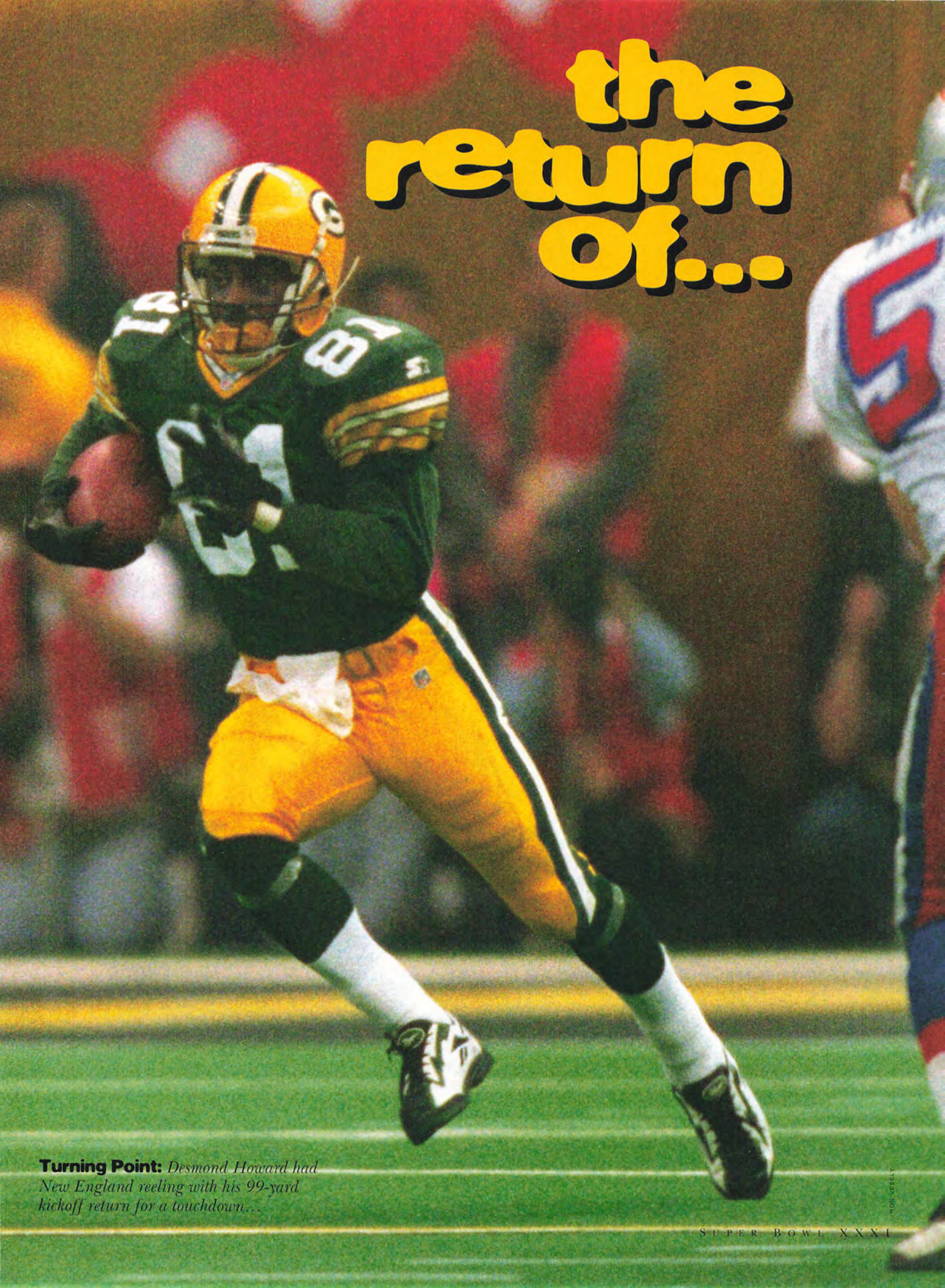

Turning Point: *Desmond Howard had New England reeling with his 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown...*

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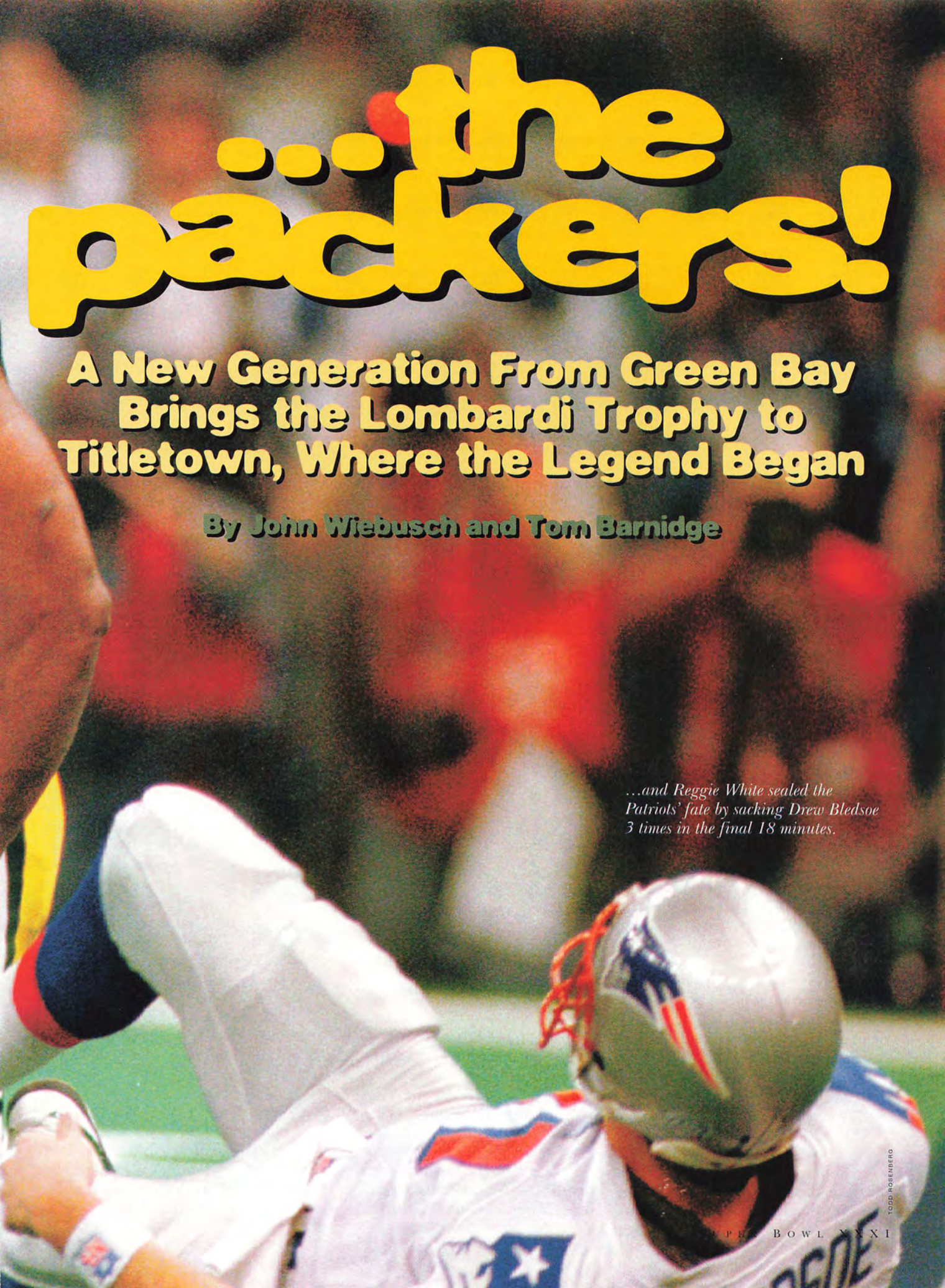
...the packers!

A New Generation From Green Bay Brings the Lombardi Trophy to Titletown, Where the Legend Began

By John Wiebusch and Tom Barnidge



...and Reggie White sealed the Patriots' fate by sacking Drew Bledsoe 3 times in the final 18 minutes.

TODD ROSENBERG

SUPER BOWL XXXI

They lined streets named Poydras and Rampart and Canal, their hands and their cheeseheads held high, their whooping and hollering unceasing. Not long after, they reprised the scene on streets named Bourbon and Royal and Decatur.

From the Superdome to the French Quarter, New Orleans belonged to the people of Wisconsin as surely as the New England Patriots belonged to the Green Bay Packers.

A 35-21 shoot-'em-up classic in Super Bowl XXXI lit the fire for a night of cheesy revelry. Did we say night? Make that a week, a month, a season (winter, of course), a year. Let the word go forth: After 29 years in hibernation, the Pack finally is back.

Up north, on a Christmas-card night in America's Dairyland, they danced in the slippery streets of Milwaukee and Madison and Wausau and Oshkosh. They packed the bars of Appleton and Sheboygan and Fond du Lac and Racine. Athletic love was in the cold air, and in the jaded, cynical 1990s, you almost had to see it to believe it.

In New Orleans, there were estimates that the 40,000 Wisconsinites who managed to get seats in the Superdome were augmented by another 40,000 who came to New Orleans merely hoping to find their way into the NFL bigtop. "NEED TICKETS" was the impassioned plea of these rosy-cheeked street people.

Desmond Howard, he of flying feet and improbable moves, was the deserving most valuable player, the winner of a trip to you-know-where. Too bad he couldn't have at least 80,000 companions.

The people's-choice team was king of the NFL's hill. The team that won Super Bowls for Vince Lombardi in the days of Lyndon Johnson, the Beatles, and flower power had won the most recent Battle of New Orleans over the plucky New England Patriots.

There have been closer Super Bowls, but none with the flamboyant derring-do of this one. The first quarter alone packed more drama into 15 minutes than many games.

The Packers led 10-0, then trailed 14-10. They seized the day in a 17-point second quarter to take a 27-14 advantage, but the Patriots reclaimed momentum with a touchdown that made it 27-21 with 3:27 left in the third quarter.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

First Blood: *On Green Bay's second play from scrimmage, Andre Rison pulled in a 54-yard touchdown pass.*

Enter Howard on the Packers' 1-yard line with the ensuing kickoff.

Exit Howard moments later in the Patriots' end zone.

Howard, on the longest kickoff return in Super Bowl history, moved his 180-pound body through a phalanx of Patriots like a sports car weaving through freeway traffic. At midfield, he glanced off New England's Hason Graham and actually gained acceleration from the contact. Only destiny could catch him then—but destiny clearly was on the Packers' side.

"I thought winning the Heisman Trophy [at Michigan in 1991] was the biggest moment in my life," Howard said. "But this definitely beats that."

A disappointment in three seasons as a wide receiver with Washington and one with the first-year Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995, Howard was signed last summer by Packers general manager Ron Wolf to be a kick returner first and a fill-in wide receiver second.

In 1996, he scored 3 touchdowns on returns in the regular season and 2 in the postseason, climaxing that with a record-tying 244-yard day in the Superdome.

Howard's touchdown against the Patriots, combined with Brett Favre's 2-point conversion pass to Mark Chmura, turned a shaky 6-point advantage into a 14-point margin.

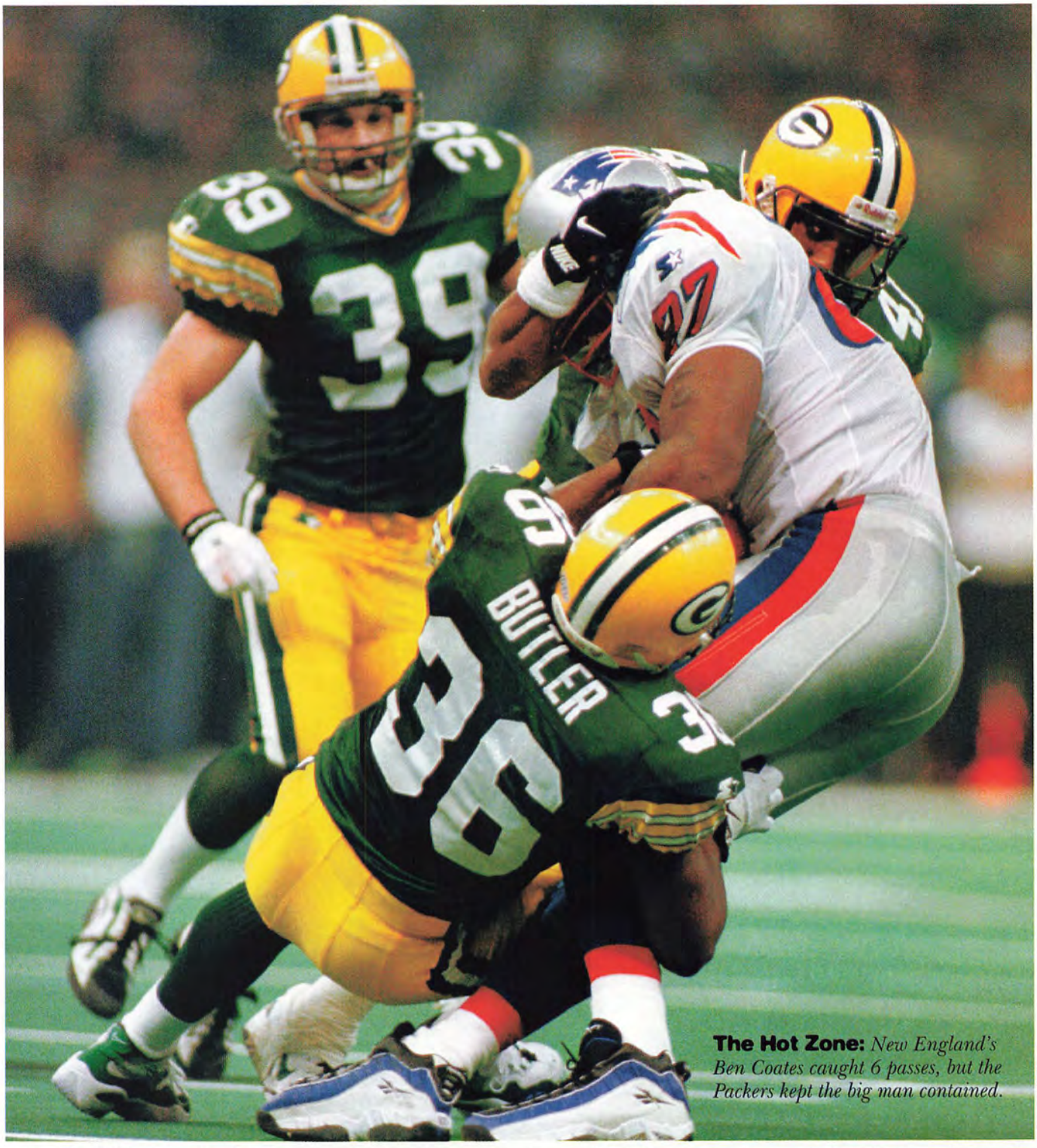
The lead seemed anything but secure—not in this game of literal and figurative fireworks—but the Packers controlled the ball for 10 of the game's final 15 minutes and twice ended New England threats with interceptions of passes by Drew Bledsoe.

Did someone say fireworks? Green Bay had touchdowns of 54, 81, and 99 yards (the first two on Favre's passes to Andre Rison and Antonio Freeman), and there were a total of 20 plays of 18 or more yards, 12 of them by the Patriots.

In the end it came down to this: Favre did not throw an interception, and Bledsoe threw 4, the first 2 setting up 10 points by the Packers. Each quarterback was sacked 5 times in vicious trench warfare.

Point of Attack: *Brett Favre showed typical leadership, passing for 246 yards and 2 touchdowns.*

RON VESELY



The Hot Zone: *New England's Ben Coates caught 6 passes, but the Packers kept the big man contained.*

TODD ROSENBERG

Reggie White, the Packers' man-mountain defensive end, had 3 sacks for Green Bay, including consecutive assaults on Bledsoe in the series just after Howard's touchdown.

In the steamy interview room, White said, "Four years ago some of you guys thought I was crazy when I said God told me to sign here [as a free agent after eight all-pro seasons with Philadelphia]. Now I'm getting a ring. How crazy do you think I am now?"

Mike Holmgren, the nice-guy-finishes-first coach who has directed the Packers to five consecutive winning seasons, hugged dozens of green-shirted players, among them White and Favre.

"It's hard to express my feelings right now," Holmgren said. "I look at the faces of my players and coaches and owners and I'm humbled and overwhelmed. I'm so happy for these guys."

Holmgren shook his head. "And these fans, these wonderful people...they've helped us all season long. They've been with us through the tough times and the bumps in the road. I couldn't be happier for them. They're something."

Something indeed. When the Packers' front office announced that, win or lose, the team would

host a celebration in Lambeau Field on the Monday afternoon after Super Bowl Sunday, some 61,000 tickets, priced at $5, sold out in less than four hours. A million callers (the population of Green Bay is 96,000, the population of Wisconsin 5 million) were told they were out of luck. Scalpers were selling tickets for at least 10 times face value.

And that was *before* the Packers' victory. On Monday afternoon, in 20-something temperatures—"Heck," said one fan, "we were worried it was going to be *cold*!"—hundreds of thousands of people lined the parade route from Austin Straubel Airport for the parade to Lambeau and there were more people *outside* the stadium than in it.

"It's great to have the Vince Lombardi Trophy back here where it belongs," said Bob Harlan, the Packers' President and CEO, referring to the trophy named for the legendary coach who masterminded Green Bay's Super Bowl I and II champions.

In the week leading up to Super Bowl XXXI, both teams talked about the importance of establishing a ground attack.

"We need to go in there with a solid running game," Packers tackle Earl Dotson said. "That's what makes the play-action passes work."

"Earlier this week, I heard Brett Favre tell a reporter, 'I'm not worried about what the Patriots are going to do. They have to worry about what I'm going to do.' When you've got a quarterback with that kind of confidence, you've got something special."

–Tight end Keith Jackson

"The key to the game will be stopping the run early," Patriots safety Willie Clay said. "They've had success running before they use their passing game. We have to make them pass."

The words were something less than prophetic. On the Packers' first possession, they stuck to the ground for only one play before Favre unloaded a seeing-eye missile that set the tempo for the game.

The play he called in the huddle, one of 15 pre-scripted by Holmgren, was a short route to tight end Keith Jackson ("about four or five yards," Favre said). But when the quarterback stepped behind center at Green Bay's 46-yard line, he saw New England's safeties crowding the line of scrimmage—a sure tipoff that he could expect a blitz.

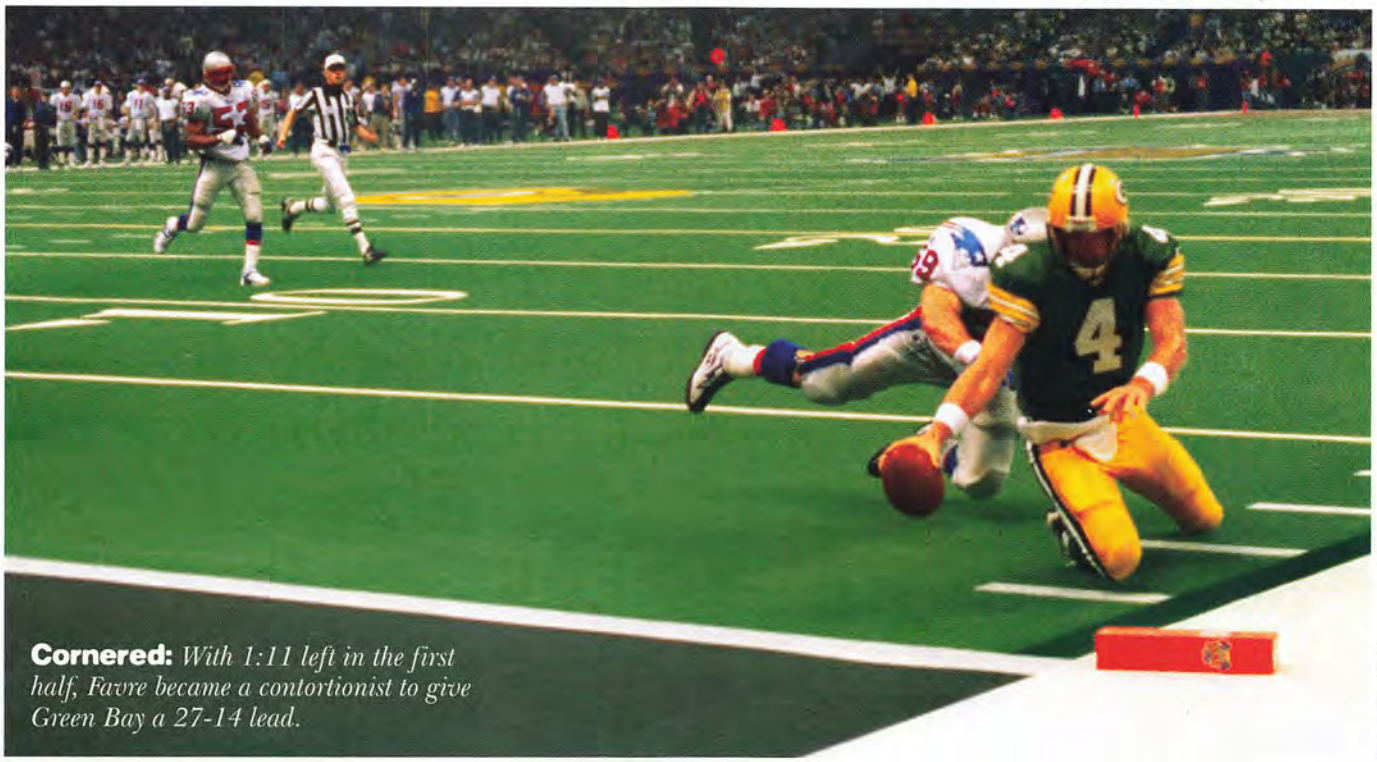
"There were some coverages we had seen on film," Favre explained. "We didn't think it would happen that early, but they showed it, so I took a chance.

"Andre got his man on the post. He's going to win most of those battles."

There was no question about this one. Rison broke clear at the Patriots' 35 and hauled in the pass at the 30. "Brett audibled and changed the play," Rison said. "I ran a post and caught [cornerback Otis Smith] in man-for-man coverage. I just ran the route, and Brett hit me with the pass. I like Otis Smith, but it's hard to cover me man for man."

"We tried to check off when he audibled," said New England defensive coordinator Al Groh. "But whether it was the jitters or the nerves or the noise, we didn't get it done."

Fifty-four yards later, just 3 minutes 32 seconds into the game, the



Cornered: *With 1:11 left in the first half, Favre became a contortionist to give Green Bay a 27-14 lead.*

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Breaking Ground: *New England was supposed to have the better running game, but the Packers wound up with a yardage edge of 115-43.*

"This is the greatest feeling you'll ever have in your entire life. I don't know if I can actually put it into words."
– Running back Dorsey Levens
36
MILLOY

TODD ROSENBERG

Packers owned a 7-0 advantage. (Said Holmgren, "I told Brett it was all right to audible—*if* it worked.")

A battle of big plays was about to get under way.

It was a shootout that would feature 7 pass completions of 20 or more yards in the first half, including touchdown passes of 54 and 81 yards. By intermission, 44 of the game's 65 offensive plays were pass attempts.

So much for truth in pregame advertising.

The Patriots, who tried 3 rushing attempts (and netted 1 yard) in their first four plays of the game, quickly showed their willingness to let Bledsoe engage in a shooting match. Beginning with his second possession, the Patriots' quarterback passed on 11 of the next 12 plays. It was a formula for jangled nerves—and for quick turnarounds in momentum.

When a pass by Bledsoe intended for Terry Glenn was intercepted by cornerback Doug Evans deep in New England territory, the Packers capitalized with Chris Jacke's 37-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead. But just as quickly, Bledsoe led the Patriots on touchdown drives of 79 and 57 yards and a shocking 14-10 first-quarter lead.

"We knew there would be a certain ebb and flow in the game," Holmgren said, "and it happened in the first half."

"They didn't let our first touchdown bother them," Packers safety LeRoy Butler said. "We suddenly were down, and we looked at each other and said, 'We're not playing the way we're capable of.'"

Not that the Packers' entire roster hadn't been warned. During pregame preparations, wide receiver Don Beebe had spoken to his teammates. Beebe, a veteran of three losing Super Bowl teams in Buffalo before joining Green Bay as a free agent, could speak from hard-learned experience.

"He told us that there are going to be momentum changes during the game," Jackson said with an appreciative grin. "He told us to keep our heads screwed on when they happened. He said that the team that deals with them best is the team that will win."

howard's

The Packers' Surprising MVP Enjoys Many Happy Returns

By Scott Ostler

FRANK MCELOTTA (3)

There are all manner of agile, elusive, speedy, shifty, and nifty kick returners in the National Football League, but now they are divided into two distinct categories:

1. Desmond Howard.
2. Not Desmond Howard.

What separates the two groups was demonstrated in Super Bowl XXXI, when the Desmond Howard shredded the New England Patriots for what seemed like 1,000 yards in kick returns, and broke their hearts and backs and won the Pete Rozelle Trophy as the game's most valuable player.

"Thank God for sending us Desmond Howard," said Packers linebacker Brian Williams, and he could have added thanks to the two NFL teams who dumped Howard into the scrap heap, from whence he was plucked by the Packers.

The difference between Desmond Howard and other kick returners? It was demonstrated on the game's key play.

Third quarter, the Patriots have just scored to close the Packers' lead to 27-21. The kickoff falls into the arms of Howard, a former Heisman Trophy winner but a classic NFL bust who barely made the Packers' roster in training camp. He catches the ball at the 1-yard line and runs it back 99 yards. The game, essentially, is over.

Afterwards, Howard's description of the runback provides insight into the difference between him and everyone else.

"At about the twenty-five or thirty," he says, "the wedge opened and I saw a lane to the left. I hit that hole. I did check the Jumbotron to see where the kicker [Adam Vinatieri] was. I remembered that kicker running down [Dallas kick returner] Herschel Walker in one game. So I made sure [Don] Beebe blocked him and I checked the screen."

This must be a first in the history of sport. Players have been known to admire replays of their performances on stadium video screens. But no player ever has used a stadium screen like a rear-view mirror to assist him during a play.

Here, then, is the presence of mind that becomes a moment of greatness: Running full speed through a swirling hurricane of 21 other bodies, Howard was able to call up a scouting report from his own internal hard drive, remembering a play from a game he had seen on film, then to use the stadium video screen as a spy-cam.

And at about the 50-yard line, Howard probably made a mental note to pick up his dry cleaning and ask for a raise.

How important was that touchdown? It came with 3:10 left in the quarter, and the Patriots were so deflated that they mustered a total of minus-3 yards of offense the rest of the game.

"It broke our backs," said Patriots' safety Willie Clay. "We had stopped them on the previous series and we felt pretty good. Desmond was the one who broke our backs."

"That hurt," Patriots running back Keith Byars says. "We were getting back into the game and we had the momentum. That kickoff return cut our hearts out. That definitely took a lot of steam out of us."

Back-breaker, heart-remover, and de-steamer. That was Howard. And it wasn't just one play. It was a medley of Desmond's greatest hits. He ran back the Patriots' first punt of the game 32 yards to set up a touchdown.

end zone

"When Desmond started bringing the noise, it got our whole team excited," says Packers safety Eugene Robinson.

Howard returned a second-period punt 34 yards to set up a field goal. In all, Howard ran back 6 punts for 90 yards and 4 kickoffs for 154 yards. His 244 yards tied the Super Bowl record for combined yards (set by San Diego's Andre Coleman in Super Bowl XXIX).

Howard also set an unofficial Super Bowl record for enjoying himself. Two hours after the game, when his teammates had long since showered and left the Superdome, Howard, still in football pants and shoes, was romping on the field with some friends.

During postgame interviews he wore a huge smile. At one point Howard used his T-shirt to wipe the sweat from his face, and when he lowered the T-shirt, the smile was still intact. It could not be wiped off.

"I just don't have words to describe how I feel," he says.

But his actions provided an exciting element of mystery to the game: Why did the Patriots keep kicking to this guy? In one season, Howard has emerged as the NFL's preeminent game-breaking kick returner, with 5 kicks run back for touchdowns. He sent the 49ers, among other teams, packing, and if there's one thing a scouting report on the Packers would have, it would be a photo of Howard with a slash across it: Do not kick to this man.

Yet, time after time the Patriots air-mailed the ball to Howard.

"That's what all the jawing was all about on special teams," Howard says. "I kept asking them, 'Why are you kicking to me?' They didn't want to hear that. I was surprised they kept punting it to me so deep and in the corners. They kept doing it and we set up some good returns."

It was a season of many happy returns for Howard, who nearly fell out of pro football before he stumbled into something special with Green Bay.

After winning the 1991 Heisman Trophy at the University of Michigan, Howard was drafted in 1992 by

MVP Caper: *Desmond Howard (81) makes his break and is off on his record-setting 99-yard kickoff return.*

the Redskins, who traded up to the number-four spot in the draft, one position ahead of the Packers, who planned to select Howard. But in three seasons at Washington, Howard was a bust as a wide receiver, never catching more than 40 passes in a season. Because of his huge seven-figure contract, the Redskins let him go in the expansion draft to clear room under the salary cap.

The Jacksonville Jaguars picked him up, and he showed promise as a kick returner. But the Jaguars didn't want him in that limited role, so they let him go after one season. The Packers decided to pick him up last offseason, out of curiosity as much as anything.

Why had the guy they wanted in '91 turned out to be such a stiff?

Howard figures it was just a matter of circumstances and timing.

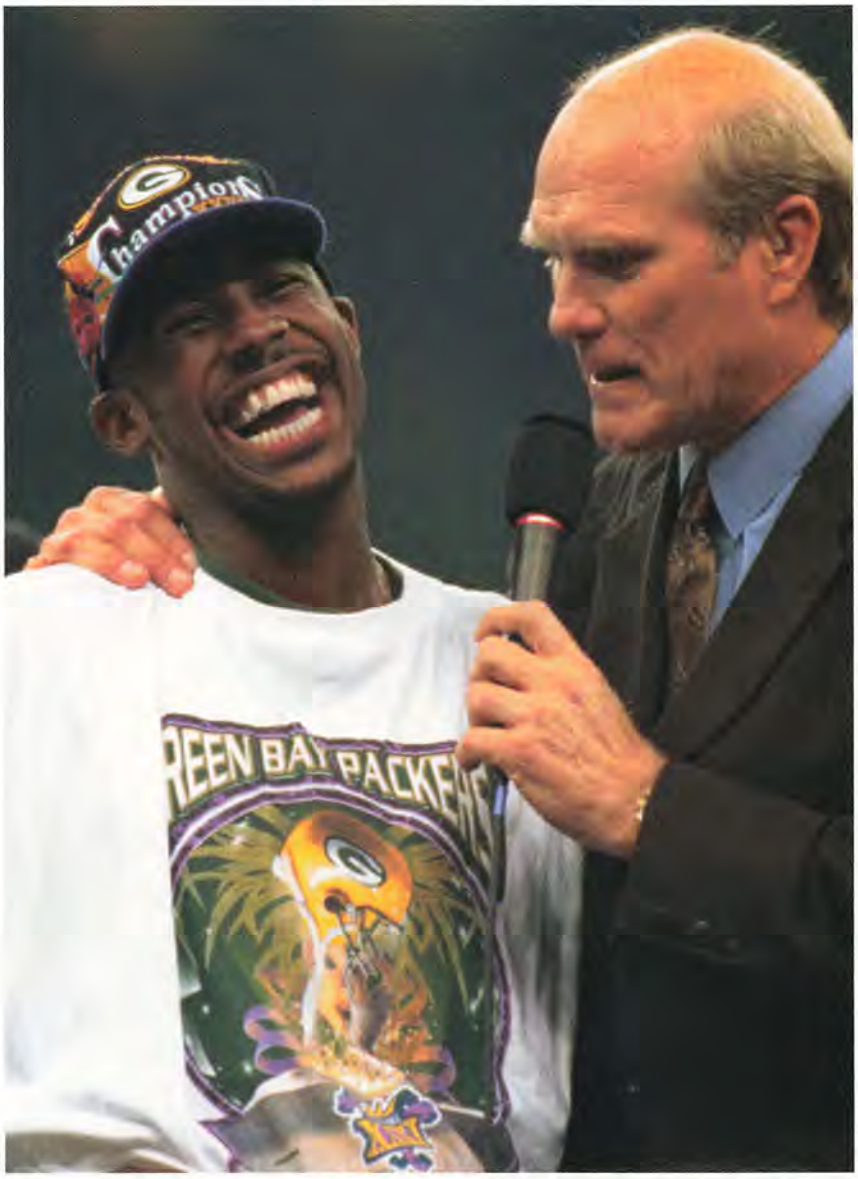
"I don't think I'm a different player now," he says. "I knew exactly what my talents are. I never was discouraged by what people wrote or said about me."

So it was simply a matter of finding the right spot for those talents. It's funny how things work out. Had the Packers drafted Howard in 1991, their expectations would have been sky-high, and chances are Howard would have been a disappointment. But four years later, the Packers gave him a modest $300,000 contract and asked him only to run back kicks.

At that, Howard barely made the team. He was injured in preseason, finally got into a game against Pittsburgh, and returned a punt for a touchdown. Coach Mike Holmgren gave the matter some thought and finally decided to keep Howard.

"It was very competitive for our receivers in training camp," Holmgren says. "When we made the final cuts at receiver, I wasn't actually sure if we did the right thing."

But Howard led the NFL in punt returns (15.1-yard average), set an NFL record for punt-return yards (875), and returned 3 punts for touchdowns. He was used sparingly as a receiver—13 pass receptions in 16 games—and then not at all. Holmgren had identified Howard's role: Cutting out the hearts of opponents with kick returns.



RON VESELY

Happiness Is... *Howard is all smiles during his postgame interview with another former MVP, Terry Bradshaw.*

Going from Heisman Trophy winner to a specialty man on kick returns might be a huge comedown to some players, but Howard not only accepted the role, he relished it and redefined it.

Against the 49ers in the first round of the playoffs, Howard had a 71-yard punt return and one of 46 yards to help stake Green Bay to a 14-0 lead.

He handled 80 kick returns this season, plus a bunch more in the postseason (including 10 in the Super Bowl), and fumbled the ball only once. And he added himself to a small club of Heisman Trophy winners who went on to win the Super Bowl MVP trophy, joining Roger Staubach, Jim Plunkett, and Marcus Allen. The Heisman is no guarantee of NFL fame—of the 185 players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, only six were Heisman Trophy winners. Howard isn't thinking of the Hall of Fame, but he is now a long way from washing out of the league.

"I've seen some guys make a great career out of being return men in the league," Howard said. "As long as they're the best at it, how can you knock it?"

The Packers won't knock it. They can't believe what they came up with as the result of simple curiosity, almost a whim.

"I never could understand why he wasn't more productive [at Washington and Jacksonville]," Holmgren says. "There are a lot of reasons, perhaps, but they don't matter, because we got him. He has really made a difference for us." ⚜

Sterling Silver Baby

No babe in arms ever was safer than the 21-inch tall Vince Lombardi Trophy in the strong hands of Green Bay equipment manager Gordon (Red) Batty. He had just secured the trophy from the postgame interview room and was headed for the safety of the locker room when he and Lombardi's legacy took part in an impromptu parade that provided a fitting coda to the Packers' Super Sunday.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Nearly two hours after the game ended, Batty and the trophy left the interview room in the Superdome, escorted by a beefy security man. They immediately were surrounded by green-and-gold-clad Packers fans. They just wanted to touch it. To see it, to feel it, to watch it go by like the Olympic torch.

Batty passed it around, and Wisconsin fingerprints appeared all over the shiny silver. The trophy parade continued down the hallway, Batty's grin rivaling the trophy for radiance. Everyone who wanted to could get close, but the trophy did not leave Batty's hands.

There were Eugene Robinson's kids. A happy couple wearing Brett Favre jerseys. A policeman. The mini-caravan rolled down the hallway.

It was somehow appropriate that an equipment manager was the guy who carried the trophy to its velvet box for the trip to its new home in Green Bay. From the beginning of their history, the Packers have been a lunch-box team, a team for the little guy.

Batty tried to jog the trophy to the locker room, but the crowd wouldn't let him. He held it up. Stadium personnel, reporters, family members, all the people who were there were drawn to Batty's prize like moths to flame.

When he finally did make it to Green Bay's locker room, Batty wasn't done. Most of the players had left, but still there was Desmond Howard, who had more than a little to do with its arrival. The Super Bowl MVP posed with the Lombardi Trophy in his underwear.

Then Batty saw a bank of lights on the other side of the room. He edged around ESPN's Andrea Kremer and stuck the trophy in LeRoy Butler's hands.

The veteran safety felt the weight of the trophy. He stared at it. He looked up into the lights. And his eyes were shiny. He tried to speak, but he stopped, choked up.

He handed the trophy back to Batty and turned away, tears streaming down his face.

—James Buckley, Jr.

The second period was only 46 seconds old when the Packers took possession at their own 19-yard line and proved how carefully they had listened to Beebe.

Green Bay had been stopped in its tracks—three plays and out—on each of its previous three possessions. This time was different. On what Favre described as an "all-go" play, in which four receivers run deep routes and he searches for the open man, wide receiver Antonio Freeman wound up isolated in man-for-man coverage with strong safety Lawyer Milloy. Favre recognized a mismatch when he saw one.

"It was kind of odd that they would put him on Freeman," Favre said.

"I think the first half of this game would have made Vince Lombardi very nervous."

–Holmgren, after the Packers squandered a 10-0 advantage before regaining the lead

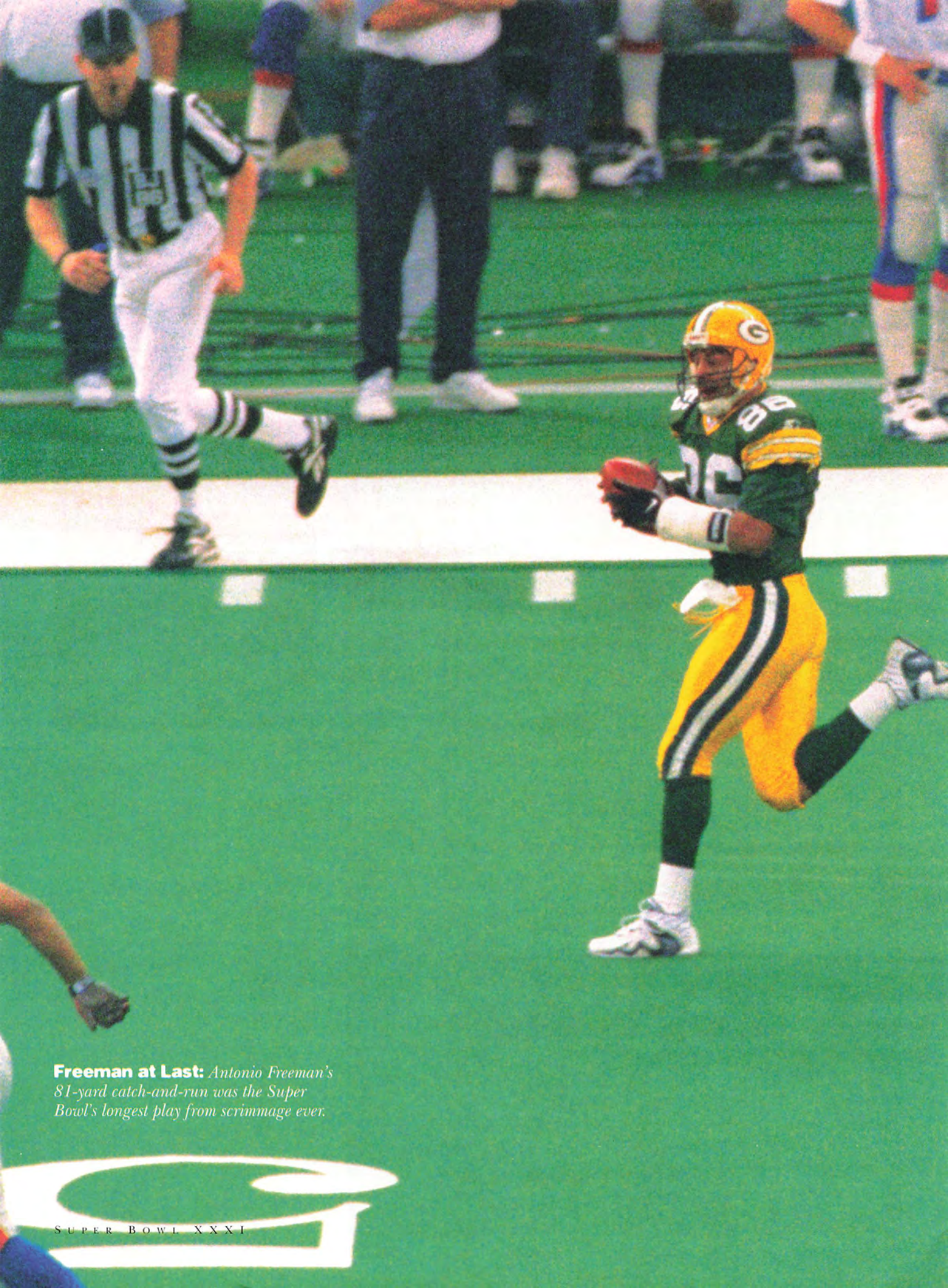
Freeman agreed.

"I was licking my chops when I saw the safety walk up," he said. "He was in aggressive coverage. I had been hearing all week that they wanted to play physical with the bump-and-run. I knew all I had to do was make him stumble or move the wrong way."

With the swivel of a hip, Freeman was loose for an 81-yard reception, the longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history.

"That was a tough matchup," said the Patriots' Al Groh. "The only chance we had was to get the bump. And he didn't get it."

The Packers clung to a 17-14 lead when they delivered another big play—a 34-yard punt return by Howard that turned potential bad field position into a first down at New England's 47. Eight plays and 33 yards later, Chris Jacke converted a 31-yard field goal.



Freeman at Last: *Antonio Freeman's 81-yard catch-and-run was the Super Bowl's longest play from scrimmage ever.*

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

It was one of many happy returns for Howard, the game's most valuable player, and proof positive that resurrections are possible. Before his Super Bowl workday was done, he would return 6 punts for 90 yards and 4 kickoffs for 154 yards.

Leading 20-14, the Packers were on a roll.

By the time Favre dived into the end zone on a rollout from 2 yards at the end of a 9-play, 74-yard march, the Packers were ahead 27-14 with 1:11 left in the first half.

But the Patriots of coach Bill Parcells, a team that had begun the season with back-to-back losses and fought its way to the AFC championship, were not ready to quit. "Believe me," Holmgren said, "the Patriots *are* a good team."

The Packers' progress on their first possession of the second half ended at New England's 37, when a fourth-and-1 gamble—an end sweep by Dorsey Levens—resulted in a 7-yard loss.

After two uneventful exchanges of possession midway through the third quarter, the Packers' inability to put away their opponent looked as if it might come back to haunt them.

The Patriots engineered a 7-play, 53-yard touchdown march that combined equal parts of resilience and good luck. Tight end Ben Coates bobbled, then grabbed, a 13-yard reception on third-and-5 while in the clutches of safety LeRoy Butler. Bledsoe misfired to an open Curtis Martin at the end of a cleverly devised fake end-around, but then connected for 9 yards to Shawn Jefferson. And, on his only two consequential rushing gains of the game, Martin bolted for 8 and 18 yards, the latter to a touchdown as a surprised Gilbert Brown reached, squeezed, and grabbed air. Green Bay 27, New England 21.

Howard watched as the tide turned. "The Patriots had the momentum going their way," he said.

Then came the play that drove a stake through New England hearts: Howard's kickoff return for a touchdown.

"I saw him running free and my heart just dropped," said Glenn, watching from the sideline.

JOY IN MUDVILLE

Five Crazed Hours in the Heart of Packerdom

BY PHIL BARBER

At 3:40 P.M. on Super Bowl Sunday, the line for Luke's Sports Spectacular is holding steady at about 15 people. They're getting sprinkled by big, gentle snowflakes, but they know that soon, fire codes permitting, they'll be basking in the warmth of familiarity. Luke's is on Water Street in downtown Milwaukee, and everybody said: "If you want a slice of the real Packers action, you've gotta go to Water Street."

Luke's is a three-ring circus of sports madness: three square bars, plus ancillary rooms, and walls plastered with every mug from Warren Spahn to Vin Baker. Tonight the place is a sea of cheese. People started showing up at 10 A.M. to get bar stools, 11 to get tables. Now it seems worth it. "We can see six TVs from here," beams one happy fan.

He is wearing a Reggie White jersey. The place is crawling with impostors; if Reggie White were seen pinching from the cash register, half the attendees would get hauled to the clink. To Reggie's left, in order, are an ersatz Mark Chmura, Brett Favre, and LeRoy Butler. These four manage to stand out even in a den of green and gold.

White has a Packers' cap over a Packers' bandana, face paint that looks like a green beard, and green-and-gold Mardi Gras beads. Favre is wearing a deflated vinyl football for a hat, gold pom-pon hair, and remarkable green face paint with XX on one of her cheeks and XI on the other. Butler has green pom-pon hair, an emblematic Packers' "G" on his cheek, and more Mardi Gras beads. The female Chmura characteristically is subdued.

All around are displayed the icons of this fervent religion. One guy has a plastic bag full of "frozen tundra," yanked from Lambeau Field before the NFC title game. Another poses for a picture and commands, "Get Little Pat in there, too." Little Pat is a three-inch troll with yellow hair and a green Packers' shirt. He stands on the table grinning while Big Pat grabs passing women for photo opportunities.

And we're still 90 minutes from kickoff.

4 P.M.—The people sitting around bar number 3, clearly in an anxious state, are doing the Wave.

4:09—Footage of a shirtless Brett Favre draws whoops from the female fans.

4:44—The Packers take the field for warm-ups at the Superdome, and the Luke's crowd erupts. Some of these folks weren't born the last time the Packers were in this position. Some were in diapers, and some already were approaching retirement.

4:48—The fans are giddy. Kenneth Branagh does a Shakespearean-themed commercial, and they actually cheer for St. Crispin's Day.

4:56—As Mary Chapin Carpenter gets into her pregame act, one woman yelps, gets to her feet, and begins to dance and sing along. "I don't really like her," she confides, "but I like country music."

4:59—A man too drunk to operate heavy machinery, but not too drunk to crack a good one, explains that when his grandfather was a baby, he cut his teeth on the spike of a Packers football cleat.

5:10—Bill Parcells is greeted by a round of boos when he is introduced. In general, though, the Packers' boosters are quite orderly. One woman sits on a ledge to get a better view of several television monitors, but sheepishly gets down as soon as she is scolded.

5:11—The Packers' defense is introduced, and the roar is deafening. Reggie White gets the loudest applause; patrons stomp on the floor for him. Gilbert Brown, the 325-pound defensive tackle, does all right, too, when he pops and locks his way down the team gauntlet.

5:19—Luther Vandross gets high marks for the National Anthem.

5:22—"Heads!" a young man shouts. "It's gotta be heads!" Former NFL coach Hank Stram tosses the coin, and sure enough it lands heads up. Unfortunately, it is the Patriots who have made the right call.

5:26—The Packers stop the opening kick return at the 21-yard line, and the bar flies react as if New England just conceded the battle.

5:29—Desmond Howard breaks his first punt return, resulting in hand-slapping and shrill cheering. "We damn well should," someone is saying to a neighbor. "We kill 'em on paper!"

5:32—Favre goes over the top to Rison for the first touchdown, and the scene is frenzied. One guy yells and points in his friend's face: "Rison! I told you! I told you!"

The bartender moves efficiently around the perimeter of his station, slapping hands with each customer. The excitement has not abated at the ensuing commercial break, when a woman dumps her beer.

5:36—The beer-spiller is explaining that she is taking three days of vacation time from her work. She gestures to a friend, "And his facto-

JOHN ROBB

Chance of Showers: *Is it snowing indoors? No, something almost as rare—championship champagne.*

JOHN ROBB

Brett, Is That You?: *There were almost as many official jerseys at Luke's than at the Louisiana Superdome.*

ry is shutting Monday because everyone was gonna be gone anyway. You can't...AAAAHHHHHHHHHH!!!"

Doug Evans has just intercepted Drew Bledsoe.

5:43—"Isn't this great?" a kindly woman asks between bursts of cheer. "We could have watched this at home, but we came here to be with all the people."

She volunteers a story about how she was 18 years old and met Ray Nitschke at a wedding, and Nitschke let her wear one of his Super Bowl rings.

5:46—A woman smoking a cigar signals "holding" and points in the general direction of Madison, Wisconsin.

5:59—The Patriots take a 14-10 lead, and the mood is nervous. "Parcells is pulling it all out," someone acknowledges.

6:01—"Don't worry," the kindly woman says. "I'm still confident."

She's thrilled with the atmosphere at Luke's. "You learn things about people," she says. "That guy wore Mark Chmura's real jersey one time. That guy touched Reggie White. We didn't know anyone when we came down here, but we feel like we're at home now."

6:05—A 5-yard gain on a New England running play is enough to elicit challenges from one Packers' backer: "They won't run on us. They will *not* run on us."

6:10—A pass to tight end Keith Jackson is broken up in traffic. "There better be a flag," yells an outraged fan. "He got mugged!" No flag.

6:19—Favre hits Antonio Freeman in stride, and he's off to the races for a 17-14 Green Bay lead. The hand-pounding is ferocious.

The massive tent that Luke's owner John Lucas has erected to handle the overflow crowd actually is a couple of tents placed side-by-side. Between them is a two-inch gap through which snow falls. Water finds the ground in numerous rivulets. Otherwise, the climatic conditions inside the tent are nearly as mild as at the Superdome, though the temperature control is less sophisticated: forced air blowers and stand-up gas heaters canceled out by mounds of snow in the corners.

The tent is dark, though lighted by the 15-foot projection screen that serves as center stage. There are several smaller televisions, a bar, and a pit for grilling brats and lazy ham. The tent shimmies a bit in the breeze. At one point, a keg of beer spontaneously blows, sending skyward a bubbly, sticky geyser.

6:39—Jackson loses control of the ball at the end of a reception, causing one woman to clutch her head with both hands. But her companion is quick with those six words that have bailed out innumerable fans in the past: "The ground can't cause a fumble."

6:47—John Madden asks, "If you had to say whether there were more people here rooting for the Packers or the Patriots, what would you answer?"

"I'd say the Packers," Pat Summerall replies dutifully.

That draws an ovation, and the volume doubles a second later when Dorsey Levens bursts down to New England's 2-yard line.

6:50—The camera focuses on Irvin Favre, Brett's father, and the crowd roars. Minutes earlier, his son had dived to the corner of the end zone to make it 27-14.

7:22—It's halftime at Brooklyn's, and the populace is caterwauling "We Will Rock You." Brooklyn's is two blocks down Water Street and, in contrast to Luke's, its three bars are arranged vertically. The Brooklyn's crowd is a strange mixture of boisterous hip-hoppers and older couples sipping Irish coffees.

7:27—Mark Chmura makes a reception and a guy happily tugs on his number-89 jersey. "That's my boy!" he grins.

7:30—On fourth-and-1, the Packers run a handoff that looks timid and lethargic. Bar owner Bruce Maher, an old footballer, commandeers the intercom. "We'll have a drawing after that *horrible* call," he says. "You got the best quarterback at running on fourth down, and you make *that* call? What're they thinking?!"

Someone wins a T-shirt.

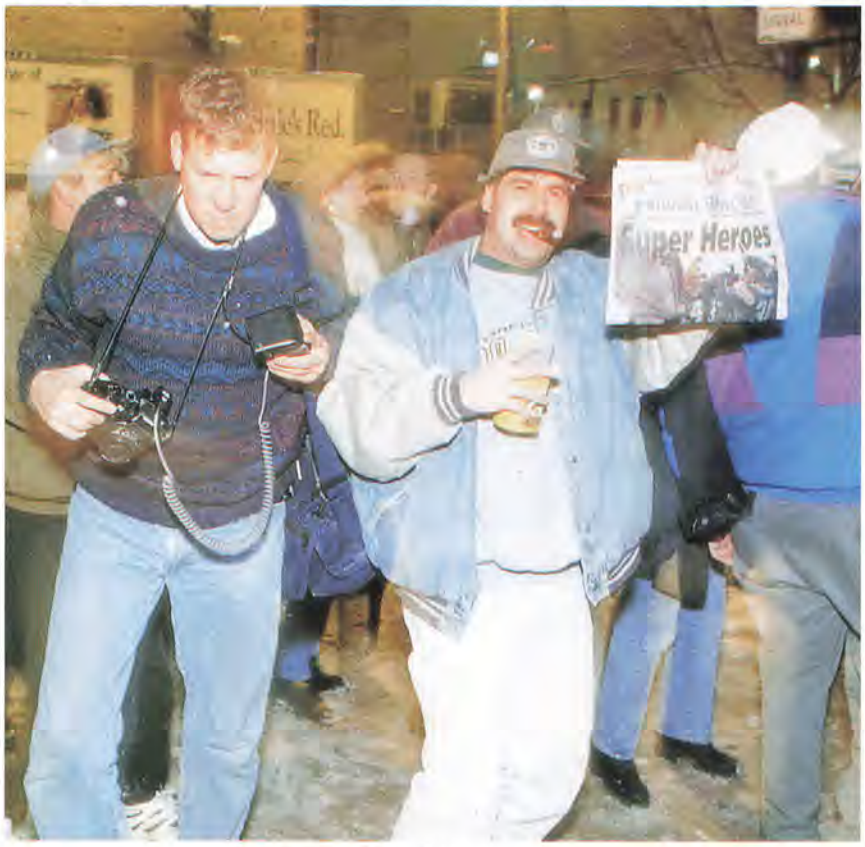
7:52—With the score a precarious 27-21, Desmond Howard fields a kickoff and breaks the Patriots' backs with a 99-yard touchdown return. Finally, the Brooklyn's crowd lives up to its potential. First it joins KC and the Sunshine Band in "Get Down Tonight," then it takes care of business with chants of "Des-mond! Des-mond!"

7:55—The Packers' successful 2-point conversion brings on more music. This time it's Aretha Franklin with "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." Old people are dancing with young people, black people with white people, and women are moving in unison like the Supremes.

7:57—As advertised, everyone at the bar gets a free shot in a plastic mini-cup to celebrate the Pack's touchdown. This one's a Sweet Tart, which tastes a bit like cough syrup.

8:16—The Water Street Tour makes a stop at Mel's. The crowd is boisterous, but more distracted. A 14-point fourth-quarter lead has minds wandering to MVP awards and trophy presentations. Insurance regulations have been tossed into the snow. People are standing on chairs and sitting on the pool table. Even the bartenders are wielding disposable cameras.

8:39—A man is caught whispering to his wife, "This thing is as good as over."



JOHN ROBB

Read All About It: *On Water Street, it was plain as black-and-white. The Packers were NFL champions.*

The tension is dissipating, as witnessed by an impromptu demonstration of double-jointedness—one guy bends his buddy's leg until his heel touches the top of his head.

8:40—The Patriots sack Favre late in the game. "All right," says one cautionary fan, "time to put McMahon in." At the station break, it's beginning to look like a full-blown celebration.

8:43—White gets his third sack and they're shouting, "Reg-gie! Reg-gie!"

8:45—Brian Williams's interception off Craig Newsome's wicked hit unleashes bedlam. Hardly anybody seems worried about a very large man standing on the bar with a lit cigar in his mouth.

8:48—The clock runs down to zero, and an out-of-town visitor is nailed in the corner of his left eye with a high-powered jet of champagne, which is cascading everywhere—beer, too. It's wall-to-wall revelers on top of both bars. Many of these people never have attempted such maneuvers before. One woman bangs her head on a pendant light fixture; luckily, she's wearing a Packers' hard hat. The stereo is pumping "We Are the Champions."

Through it all, Mel and Diana Gustafson sit placidly, goofy smiles plastered to their faces. "I've been pulling for this team since Tobin Rote!" Mel says. "This is just the best possible feeling you could have. I mean, look at this. I can't even put it into words."

Mel turns to a plump stranger pushing past and says, "You look like Mike Holmgren!" At this moment, it's the most sincere of compliments.

9:05—"You might not know this," comes a voice over a loudspeaker, "but the Green Bay Packers are the champions of the world!"

The crowd has no more upward notches; it's going full-tilt. Mel's had promised free beer for one hour if the Packers won, and that promise is being fulfilled. Niagaras of beer are poured from sky-high pitchers, and the whole world is dancing.

It will go on for hours, spilling into the snowbound Milwaukee streets, the result of nearly 30 years of patience and prayer.

One perfect image outlasts the rest: The Village People are blaring through the speakers, and an attractive young woman is showing Mel Gustafson how to call out "YMCA" with his hands. ⚜

Pack Sacks: *Drew Bledsoe went down 5 times, including this second-quarter sack by LeRoy Butler.*

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

"I saw nine people ahead of me and a huge wedge forming," Howard said. "At about the twenty-five or thirty, the wedge opened and I saw a lane to the left. I hit that hole and it was a done deal."

Jackson, another observer, knew that Howard was on his way to the end zone. "I told Desmond that if he ran one back all the way, I'd fly him to the Pro Bowl to be with me," he said. "When I saw him heading for the end zone, I suddenly thought, 'Oh, boy, that's gonna cost me.'"

On the successful 2-point conversion pass to Chmura, Favre had enough time to count the cheeseheads in the stands before firing a pass to his tight end.

"We put pretty good pressure on Favre most of the game," Patriots linebacker Chris Slade said, "but when we didn't, he hit us with some big plays."

Super Bowl XXXI had done its last pirouette, this one ending in a 180-degree turn: Green Bay 35, New England 21.

"I credit Desmond Howard on an outstanding performance," Parcells said. "I think his kick return provided the impetus for his team. Up until that point, I thought we still had an opportunity.

"The difference in the game was special teams."

In the warm glow of the winners' locker room, the first reaction was relief. Expectations, bitterly dashed a year earlier in an NFC Championship Game loss to Dallas, had been high for this team since the first day of training camp.

"This has been pressure beyond pressure," Levens said. "I was nervous the entire game. I never calmed down."

"After I scored that first touchdown, I didn't catch my breath until the third quarter," Rison added.

No one understood the pressure better than Favre, who had felt the heat of probing eyes since May 15, 1996. It was then that he announced at a press conference that he would enter a rehabilitation center to treat his addiction to a painkiller, Vicodin.

The doubters, the skeptics, and the cynics had been quieted.

"This means everything," the Packers' quarterback said. "I've been through a lot of tough times this year and a lot of good. They kind of equal themselves out. To win this, it's unbelievable. It's hard

"This bunch knows how to have fun, but they know how to pull the trigger when they have to. I'll tell you this, they made a 64-year-old man feel like a 25-year-old today."

–Defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

SUPER BOWL

The (Defensive) End Justifies His Means

Redemption. In life, Reggie White, an ordained minister, discovered it in religion. In professional football, the 6-foot 5-inch, 300-pound defensive end found it in Green Bay's 35-21 victory over New England in Super Bowl XXXI.

"It feels good to finally be on a championship team," White said. "There are no individuals on this team. Our guys work hard, and we're unselfish. We had a good time this year. This is probably the first time in my career that I've really enjoyed going to work."

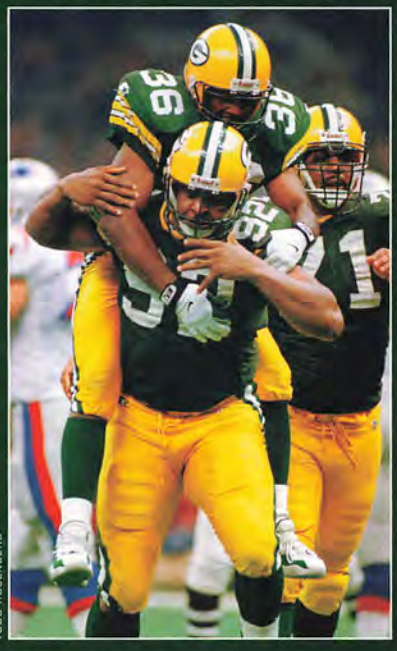
White played a pivotal role in helping the Packers win their first league title since the 1967 season. The NFL's all-time sack leader recorded a Super Bowl-record 3 sacks, and provided most of the pressure that Green Bay was able to put on Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe.

White finished New England's title hopes in the third quarter, immediately following Desmond Howard's electrifying 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

After Bledsoe completed a 5-yard pass to Keith Byars on first down, White sacked Bledsoe for an 8-yard loss on second down. Another sack by White on third down cost the Patriots 6 yards and forced a punt.

"On my first sack, I just clubbed him [Patriots right tackle Max Lane]," White said. "On my second sack, I beat him around the corner. Because we were in a three-man front, I was surprised that the guard didn't come back to help him. It was then that I felt like I was getting something going."

White, a perennnial Pro Bowl player in his 12 NFL seasons (including 8 with the Philadelphia Eagles), had played on only one previous team—the 1995 Packers—that advanced as far as the NFC Championship Game. Four years ago, White signed as a free agent with Green Bay because he thought the Packers had a chance to win the Super Bowl and because, he said, God told him that it was the right thing to do.



TODD ROSENBERG

Amen, Minister: *In Reggie White's twelfth season, the star captured his holy grail.*

"When I decided to come here and I said we had a chance to win a championship, it seemed foolish to a lot of you," White said to the Super Bowl media. "You probably won't admit it, but now you're thinking that God might have spoken to me and that I'm not really that crazy.

"I don't think that I'm finished. I still want to play a few more years. I'd like another ring."

—Brian Peterson

even to talk about it. We waited a long time for this."

Nearby, Rison was thinking similar thoughts. He was remembering a career that nearly had crash landed in Jacksonville, where he was waived by the Jaguars. He was reflecting on a reputation for disruptive behavior that accompanied him when Green Bay claimed him off waivers late in the season after injuries thinned the receiving corps.

"This year has been a special one," he said. "They had faced adversity as a team here. I had faced it personally. They were willing to take a chance on a guy who they thought, deep down, was a good person. When we came together, it made a perfect marriage."

In Green Bay, where football legends live, the 1996 Packers will take their place alongside championship teams from other eras. The players and the coaching staff understand the significance.

"Green Bay was starved," safety Eugene Robinson said. "They were waiting for this, and everyone reminded us of that. You have to live in Green Bay to understand. We share this with the entire community."

Freeman had a twinkle in his eyes as he thought out loud: "They call it the Vince Lombardi Trophy? Well, it's coming home."

FRANK MICELOTTA

Favre Out: *The Packers' young passer added a Super Bowl ring to two NFL most-valuable-player awards.*

XXXI: FOR THE RECORD

STARTING LINEUPS

New England	Offense	Green Bay
Shawn Jefferson	WR	Antonio Freeman
Bruce Armstrong	LT	Bruce Wilkerson
William Roberts	LG	Aaron Taylor
Dave Wohlabaugh	C	Frank Winters
Todd Rucci	RG	Adam Timmerman
Max Lane	RT	Earl Dotson
Ben Coates	TE	Mark Chmura
Terry Glenn	WR	Andre Rison
Drew Bledsoe	QB	Brett Favre
Curtis Martin	RB	Edgar Bennett
Keith Byars	RB	William Henderson
	Defense	
Ferric Collons	LE	Reggie White
Mark Wheeler	LT	Santana Dotson
Pio Sagapolutele	RT	Gilbert Brown
Willie McGinest	RE	Sean Jones
Chris Slade	LLB	Wayne Simmons
Ted Johnson	MLB	Ron Cox
Todd Collins	RLB	Brian Williams
Ty Law	LCB	Craig Newsome
Otis Smith	RCB	Doug Evans
Lawyer Milloy	SS	LeRoy Butler
Willie Clay	FS	Eugene Robinson

SUBSTITUTIONS

New England—Offense: K–Adam Vinatieri. P–Tom Tupa. RB–Marrio Grier, David Meggett. WR–Vincent Brisby, Hason Graham, Ray Lucas. TE–Mike Bartrum, John Burke. G–Bob Kratch. C–Mike Gisler. Defense: DE–Mike Jones, Chris Sullivan. DT–Chad Eaton. LB–Tedy Bruschi, Marty Moore, Dwayne Sabb. CB–Jerome Henderson, Mike McGruder. S–Corwin Brown, Terry Ray, Larry Whigham. DNP: CB–Ricky Reynolds. Inactive: QB–Scott Zolak.

WR–Troy Brown, Dietrich Jells. TE–Lovett Purnell. T–Dave Richards. G–Heath Irwin. DT–Devin Wyman. CB–Jimmy Hitchcock.

Green Bay—Offense: K-Chris Jacke. P–Craig Hentrich. RB–Calvin Jones, Travis Jervey, Dorsey Levens. WR–Don Beebe, Desmond Howard, Terry Mickens. TE–Keith Jackson, Jeff Thomason. T–John Michels. G–Lindsay Knapp. C–Jeff Dellenbach. Defense: DE–Keith McKenzie, Gabe Wilkins. DT–Darius Holland. LB–Bernardo Harris, Lamont Hollinquest. CB–Tyrone Williams. S–Chris Hayes, Mike Prior, Roderick Mullen. DNP: QB–Jim McMahon. Inactive: QB-Doug Pederson, Kyle Wachholtz. WR–Derrick Mayes. T–Gary Brown. G–Marco Rivera. DE–Shannon Clavelle. DT–Bob Kuberski. CB–Michael Robinson.

OFFICIALS

Referee–Gerald Austin. Umpire–Ron Botchan. Line Judge–Jeff Bergman. Side Judge–Tom Fincken. Head Linesman–Earnie Frantz. Back Judge–Scott Steenson. Field Judge–Phil Luckett.

SCORING

New England	14	0	7	0	—	21
Green Bay	10	17	8	0	—	35

GB–Rison 54 pass from Favre (Jacke kick)
GB–FG Jacke 37
NE–Byars 1 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick)
NE–Coates 4 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick)
GB–Freeman 81 pass from Favre (Jacke kick)
GB–FG Jacke 31
GB–Favre 2 run (Jacke kick)
NE–Martin 18 run (Vinatieri kick)
GB–Howard 99 kickoff return (Chmura pass from Favre)
Attendance–72,301

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Patriots	Packers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	16	16
Rushing	3	8
Passing	12	6
Penalty	1	2
TOTAL NET YARDS	257	323
Total Offensive Plays	66	68
Average Gain per Play	3.9	4.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	43	115
Total Rushing Plays	13	36
Avg. Gain per Rushing Play	3.3	3.2
NET YARDS PASSING	214	208
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	48-25-4	27-14-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-39	5-38
Gross Yards Passing	253	246
Avg. Gain (incl. sacks)	4.0	6.5
PUNTS-YARDS	8-361	7-299
Average Distance	45.1	42.7
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RETURN YARDS	165	268
Kickoff Returns-Yards	6-135	4-154
Punt Returns-Yards	4-30	6-90
Int. Returns-Yards	0-0	4-24
TOTAL TURNOVERS	4	0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Had Intercepted	4	0
PENALTIES-YARDS	2-22	3-41
TOTAL POINTS SCORED	21	35
Touchdowns Rushing	1	1
Touchdowns Passing	2	2
Touchdowns Returns	0	1
Extra Points	3-3	4-4
Field Goals-Attempts	0-0	2-3
Safeties	0	0
THIRD-DOWN EFFICIENCY	4/14	3/15
FOURTH-DOWN EFFICIENCY	0/2	0/1
TIME OF POSSESSION	25:45	34:15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

New England	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Martin	11	42	3.8	18*t*	1
Bledsoe	1	1	1.0	1	0
Meggett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Green Bay	**No**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**LG**	**TD**
Levens	14	61	4.4	12	0
Bennett	17	40	2.4	10	0
Favre	4	12	3.0	12	1
Henderson	1	2	2.0	2	0

PASSING

New England	Att	Comp	Yds	LG	TD	Int
Bledsoe	48	25	253	44	2	4
Green Bay	**Att**	**Comp**	**Yds**	**LG**	**TD**	**Int**
Favre	27	14	246	81*t*	2	0

RECEIVING

New England	No	Yds	LG	TD
Coates	6	67	19	1
Glenn	4	62	44	0
Byars	4	42	32	1
Jefferson	3	34	14	0
Martin	3	28	20	0
Meggett	3	8	5	0
Brisby	2	12	7	0
Green Bay	**No**	**Yds**	**LG**	**TD**
Freeman	3	105	81*t*	1
Levens	3	23	14	0
Rison	2	77	54*t*	1
Henderson	2	14	8	0
Chmura	2	13	8	0
Jackson	1	10	10	0
Bennett	1	4	4	0

INTERCEPTIONS

New England	No	Yds	LG	TD
None				
Green Bay	**No**	**Yds**	**LG**	**TD**
B. Williams	1	16	16	0
Prior	1	8	8	0
Evans	1	0	0	0
Newsome	1	0	0	0

PUNTING

New England	No	Yds	Avg	In 20	TB	LG
Tupa	8	361	45.1	3	0	53
Green Bay	**No**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**In 20**	**TB**	**LG**
Hentrich	7	299	42.7	1	0	58

PUNT RETURNS

New England	No	FC	Yds	LG	TD
Meggett	4	2	30	20	0
Green Bay	**No**	**FC**	**Yds**	**LG**	**TD**
Howard	6	1	90	34	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

New England	No	Yds	LG	TD
Meggett	5	117	26	0
Graham	1	18	18	0
Green Bay	**No**	**Yds**	**LG**	**TD**
Howard	4	154	99*t*	1

KICKING

New England	XP-A	FG-AFG	Made	FG Missed
Vinatieri	3-3	0-0	—	—
Green Bay	**XP-A**	**FG-AFG**	**Made**	**FG Missed**
Jacke	3-3	2-3	37,31	47

t-touchdown

PLAY-BY-PLAY

New England won the toss and elected to receive.

FIRST QUARTER

New England (15:00)

Hentrich kick to NE 3, Graham 18 return (McKenzie).
NE 21 1-10 Martin 1 run right (B. Williams).
NE 22 2-9 Bledsoe 14 pass to Jefferson middle (E. Robinson).
NE 36 1-10 Martin run right, no gain (B. Williams).
NE 36 2-10 Martin run middle, no gain (S. Dotson).
NE 36 3-10 Bledsoe pass to Meggett incomplete.
NE 36 4-10 Tupa 51 punt, Howard 32 return (Whigham).

Green Bay (12:19)

GB 45 1-10 Bennett 1 run left (T. Johnson).
GB 46 2-9 Favre 54 pass to Rison, touchdown (11:28). Jacke kicked extra point.
GB scoring drive: 55 yards, 2 plays, 0:51.
Green Bay 7, New England 0

New England (11:28)

Hentrich kick into end zone, touchback.
NE 20 1-10 Bledsoe 1 pass to Martin (Gi. Brown).
NE 21 2-9 Bledsoe pass to Glenn intercepted at NE 28, Evans no return.

Green Bay (10:40)

NE 28 1-10 Favre sacked, loss of 10 (Collons).
NE 38 2-20 Levens 5 run middle (Collons).
NE 33 3-15 Favre 14 screen pass to Levens (Bruschi).
NE 19 4-1 Jacke, 37-yard field goal (8:42).
GB scoring drive: 9 yards, 3 plays, 1:58.
Green Bay 10, New England 0

New England (8:42)
Hentrich kick 5 yards into end zone, Meggett 26 return (Mickens).
NE 21 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Byars incomplete.
NE 21 2-10 Bledsoe 32 pass to Byars (Evans).
GB 47 1-10 Bledsoe 20 pass to Martin (B. Williams).
GB 27 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Martin incomplete.
GB 27 2-10 Bledsoe pass to Glenn incomplete.
GB 27 3-10 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson incomplete. Play nullified and GB penalized 26 for pass interference (Newsome).
GB 1 1-g Bledsoe 1 pass to Byars, touchdown (6:35). Vinatieri kicked extra point.
NE scoring drive: 79 yards, 6 plays, 2:07.
Green Bay 10, New England 7

Green Bay (6:35)
Vinatieri kick to GB 5, Howard 13 return (Ray).
GB 18 1-10 Bennett run right, loss of 4 (Slade).
GB 14 2-14 Levens 3 run right (Slade).
GB 17 3-11 Favre pass to Freeman incomplete.
GB 17 4-11 Hentrich 39 punt, Meggett return, loss of 1 (B. Harris).

New England (4:44)
NE 43 1-10 Bledsoe 7 pass to Martin (Simmons).
50 2-3 Martin 2 run middle (Gi. Brown).
GB 48 3-1 Bledsoe 44 pass to Glenn (E. Robinson).
GB 4 1-g Bledsoe 4 pass to Coates, touchdown (2:33). Vinatieri kicked extra point.
NE scoring drive: 57 yards, 4 plays, 2:11.
New England 14, Green Bay 10

Green Bay (2:33)
Vinatieri kick to GB 7, Howard 19 return (Bruschi).
GB 26 1-10 Favre pass to Rison incomplete.
GB 26 2-10 Favre 5 pass to Levens (T. Johnson).
GB 31 3-5 Favre sacked, loss of 2 (Bruschi).
GB 29 4-7 Hentrich 58 punt, Meggett 20 return (Prior).

New England (1:03)
NE 33 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Glenn incomplete.
NE 33 2-10 Martin 5 run middle (S. Jones).
NE 38 3-5 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson incomplete.
NE 38 4-5 Tupa 51 punt, Howard 6 return (Bartrum).

Green Bay (:03)
GB 17 1-10 Favre 4 pass to Levens (T. Collins).
END OF FIRST QUARTER:
New England 14, Green Bay 10

SECOND QUARTER
GB 21 2-6 Favre pass to Jackson incomplete.
GB 21 3-6 Favre pass to Rison incomplete.
GB 21 4-6 Hentrich 37 punt, downed at NE 42.

New England (14:39)
NE 42 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Byars incomplete.
NE 42 2-10 Bledsoe pass to Coates incomplete.
NE 42 3-10 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson incomplete.
NE 42 4-10 Tupa 42 punt, Howard 3 return (Sabb).

Green Bay (14:14)
GB 19 1-10 Favre 81 pass to Freeman, touchdown (14:04). Jacke kicked extra point.
GB scoring drive: 81 yards, 1 play, :10.
Green Bay 17, New England 14

New England (14:04)
Hentrich kick to NE 2, Meggett 22 return (McKenzie).
NE 24 1-10 Bledsoe 9 pass to Glenn (Newsome).
NE 33 2-1 Martin 3 run middle (Cox).
NE 36 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Martin incomplete.
NE 36 2-10 Martin 3 run left (S. Jones).
NE 39 3-7 Bledsoe sacked, loss of 9 (Butler).
NE 30 4-16 Tupa 51 punt, Howard 34 return (Ray).

Green Bay (11:13)
NE 47 1-10 Bennett 1 run right (Sabb).
NE 46 2-9 Favre 23 pass to Rison.
NE 23 1-10 Favre pass to Rison incomplete.
NE 23 2-10 Levens 12 run middle (Milloy).
NE 11 1-10 Bennett run right, loss of 3 (Milloy).
NE 14 2-13 Favre pass to Levens incomplete.
NE 14 3-13 Favre pass to Rison incomplete.
NE 14 4-13 Jacke, 31-yard field goal (8:15).
GB scoring drive: 33 yards, 7 plays, 2:58.
Green Bay 20, New England 14

New England (8:15)
Hentrich kick to NE 4, Meggett 21 return (Harris).
NE 25 1-10 Bledsoe 19 pass to Coates (E. Robinson).
NE 44 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Byars incomplete.
NE 44 2-10 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson intercepted at GB 18, Prior 8 return (Rucci).

Green Bay (7:10)
GB 26 1-10 Favre 10 pass to Jackson (Slade).
GB 36 1-10 Bennett 2 run middle (T. Johnson).
GB 38 2-8 Favre pass to Freeman incomplete. Play nullified and NE penalized 6 for pass interference (Smith).
GB 44 1-10 Favre 22 pass to Freeman (Milloy).
NE 34 1-10 Levens 9 run left (Smith).
NE 25 2-1 Levens 6 run right (Collins).
NE 19 1-10 Bennett 1 run left (Smith).
NE 18 2-9 Levens 8 run right (Law). Two-minute warning.
NE 10 3-1 Levens 8 run right (Clay)
NE 2 1-g Favre 2 run left end, touchdown (1:11). Jacke kicked extra point.
GB scoring drive: 74 yards, 9 plays, 5:59.
Green Bay 27, New England 14

New England (1:11)
Hentrich kick 2 yards into end zone, Meggett 24 return (Hollinquest).
NE 22 1-10 Bledsoe 18 pass to Coates (Butler). NE–first time out (:58).
NE 40 1-10 Bledsoe 10 pass to Glenn (E. Robinson).
50 1-10 Bledsoe 1 pass to Meggett (Butler). NE–second time out (:35).
GB 49 2-9 Bledsoe 7 pass to Brisby (out of bounds.).
GB 42 3-2 Bledsoe pass to Glenn incomplete.
GB 42 4-2 Bledsoe pass to Meggett incomplete.

Green Bay (:19)
GB 43 1-10 Favre sacked, loss of 7 (McGinest).
END OF SECOND QUARTER:
Green Bay 27, New England 14

THIRD QUARTER
Green Bay (15:00)
Vinatieri kick to GB 2, Howard 23 return (McGruder).
GB 25 1-10 Favre 8 pass to Chmura (Clay).
GB 33 2-2 Bennett 8 run right (Milloy).
GB 41 1-10 Favre 6 pass to Henderson (T. Johnson).
GB 47 2-4 Henderson 2 run middle (McGinest).
GB 49 3-2 Favre 5 pass to Chmura (Law).
NE 46 1-10 Levens 1 run middle (Slade).
NE 45 2-9 Favre 8 pass to Henderson (McGinest).
NE 37 3-1 Levens run middle, no gain (Slade).
NE 37 4-1 Levens run right, loss of 7 (T. Johnson).

New England (9:32)
NE 44 1-10 Bledsoe 11 pass to Jefferson (Evans).
GB 45 1-10 Bledsoe 4 pass to Byars (B. Williams).
GB 41 2-6 Bledsoe pass to Coates incomplete.
GB 41 3-6 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson incomplete.
GB 41 4-6 Tupa 29 punt, Howard fair catch.

Green Bay (8:07)
GB 12 1-10 Favre sacked, loss of 7 (Smith).
GB 5 2-17 Favre pass to Freeman incomplete.
GB 5 3-17 Bennett 6 run middle (Jones).
GB 11 4-11 Hentrich 48 punt, Meggett 6 return (Jervey).

New England (6:52)
NE 47 1-10 Martin 4 run middle (Gi. Brown).
GB 49 2-6 Bledsoe 1 run middle (S. Jones).
GB 48 3-5 Bledsoe 13 pass to Coates (Butler).
GB 35 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Martin incomplete.
GB 35 2-10 Bledsoe 9 pass to Jefferson (T. Williams).
GB 26 3-1 Martin 8 run left (E. Robinson).
GB 18 1-10 Martin 18 run middle, touchdown (3:27). Vinatieri kicked extra point.
NE scoring drive: 53 yards, 7 plays, 3:25.
Green Bay 27, New England 21

Green Bay (3:27)
Vinatieri kick to GB 1, Howard 99 return middle, touchdown (3:10). GB–first time out. Favre pass to Chmura for 2-point conversion.
Green Bay 35, New England 21

New England (3:10)
Hentrich kick to NE 1, Meggett 24 return (Thomason).
NE 25 1-10 Bledsoe 5 pass to Byars (Simmons).
NE 30 2-5 Bledsoe sacked, loss of 8 (R. White).
NE 22 3-13 Bledsoe sacked, loss of 6 (R. White).
NE 16 4-19 Tupa 47 punt, out of bounds at GB 37.

Green Bay (1:14)
GB 37 1-10 Levens 1 run right (Slade).
GB 38 2-9 Favre 12 run right (McGinest).
END OF THIRD QUARTER:
Green Bay 35, New England 21

FOURTH QUARTER
50 1-10 Favre pass to Levens incomplete.
50 2-10 Levens 1 run right (T. Johnson).
NE 49 3-9 Favre pass to Mickens incomplete.
NE 49 4-9 Hentrich 29 punt, Meggett fair catch.

New England (14:03)
NE 20 1-10 Martin run middle, loss of 2 (E. Robinson).
NE 18 2-12 Bledsoe pass to Glenn, loss of 1 (Wilkins).
NE 17 3-13 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson incomplete.
NE 17 4-13 Tupa 53 punt, Howard 10 return (Whigham).

Green Bay (12:31)
GB 40 1-10 Favre 4 pass to Bennett (Slade).
GB 44 2-6 Bennett 10 run middle (Slade).
NE 46 1-10 Bennett run right, loss of 2 (Slade).
NE 48 2-12 Favre pass to Freeman incomplete.
NE 48 3-12 Favre pass to Chmura incomplete.
NE 48 4-12 Hentrich 34 punt, Meggett fair catch.

New England (9:57)
NE 14 1-10 Bledsoe 3 pass to Coates (Butler).
NE 17 2-7 Bledsoe 5 pass to Meggett (Simmons).
NE 22 3-2 Bledsoe 10 pass to Coates (Butler).
NE 32 1-10 Meggett run right, no gain (S. Dotson).
NE 32 2-10 Bledsoe pass to Jefferson intercepted at GB 31, Newsome no return.

Green Bay (8:14)
GB 31 1-10 Bennett run right, no gain (T. Collins).
GB 31 2-10 Bennett 7 run right (Slade). GB–second time out (6:45).
GB 38 3-3 Favre 2 pass to Freeman (Clay). NE pen. 16 for unnecessary roughness (Clay).
NE 44 1-10 Levens 7 run left (J. Henderson).
NE 37 2-3 Bennett 1 run right (Collons). NE–first time out (5:32).
NE 36 3-2 GB pen. 5 for false start (Wilkerson).
NE 41 3-7 Levens 7 run left (C. Brown).
NE 34 1-10 Bennett 3 run middle (T. Johnson). NE–second time out (4:47).
NE 31 2-7 Bennett 1 run right (T. Johnson).
NE 30 3-6 Favre pass to Rison incomplete.
NE 30 4-6 Jacke's 47-yard field-goal attempt was wide right.

New England (3:56)
NE 37 1-10 Bledsoe pass to Brisby incomplete.
NE 37 2-10 Bledsoe 2 pass to Meggett (Butler).
NE 39 3-8 Bledsoe sacked, loss of 7 (S. Dotson).
NE 32 4-15 Tupa 37 punt, Howard 5 return. GB pen. 10 for holding (T. Williams).

Green Bay (3:11)
GB 26 1-10 Bennett 4 run middle (T. Johnson).
GB 30 2-6 Bennett 4 run right (Clay). NE–third time out (2:18).
GB 34 3-2 Favre sacked, loss of 12 (Bruschi). Two-minute warning.
GB 22 4-14 Hentrich 54 punt, Meggett 5 return (Jervey).

New England (1:49)
NE 29 1-10 Bledsoe sacked, loss of 9 (R. White).
NE 20 2-19 Bledsoe pass to Meggett incomplete.
NE 20 3-19 Bledsoe 5 pass to Brisby (Newsome).
NE 25 4-14 Bledsoe pass to Brisby intercepted at NE 37, B. Williams 16 return (Roberts).

Green Bay (:50)
NE 21 1-10 Favre knelt down, loss of 1
NE 22 2-11 Favre knelt down, loss of 1.
FINAL SCORE:
Green Bay 35, New England 21
FINAL RECORDS:
Green Bay 16-3, New England 13-6

The 1996 Packers Exorcised 30-Year-Old Ghosts, Overcame Injury and Misfortune, and Made Mission Possible a Reality

By Tom Barnidge

As the final seconds ticked away in Super Bowl XXXI and the Green Bay Packers secured the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the community in which the famous coach's legend was born, it must have seemed to millions that they were viewing the last chapter in a storybook tale.

That's not exactly true.

The story of the 1996 Packers seldom went by the script. It was a season in which the best-laid plans had to be scrapped or changed. It was a season in which...12-year veteran Ken Ruettgers, expected to start at left tackle, was forced by injury to retire without ever playing one full game...star wide receiver Robert Brooks was lost to torn knee ligaments less than halfway through the season...starting wide receiver Antonio Freeman was out four weeks with a broken forearm...tight end Mark Chmura missed three games with a torn arch in his foot.

It was a season in which the Packers became champions because they adapted when they had to.

The players knew from the moment they arrived in training camp that they would be confronted with hurdles this year. First among them was the daunting ghost of the Packers' glorious past—and the equally imposing height at which current expectations had been placed. How many times would this year's players have to be reminded of the long-ago heroics of Bart Starr, Ray Nitschke, and Jerry Kramer?

"What people outside Green Bay don't understand is that for us to be validated as a great team, we've got to exorcise all these ghosts," defensive end Sean Jones said. "The only thing that validates us is a championship."

Even in good news there was a bit of the bad. The momentum that accompanied the 1996 Packers after four consecutive winning seasons—a 42-29 record since Mike Holmgren had been named coach—couldn't hide the frustration of another record during that span: 0-6 versus the Dallas Cowboys.

Each of the Packers' previous three seasons ended in a playoff defeat at Texas Stadium—27-17, 35-9, and 38-27. Each year, the Cowboys rejoiced, and the Packers rationalized. It became an annual event.

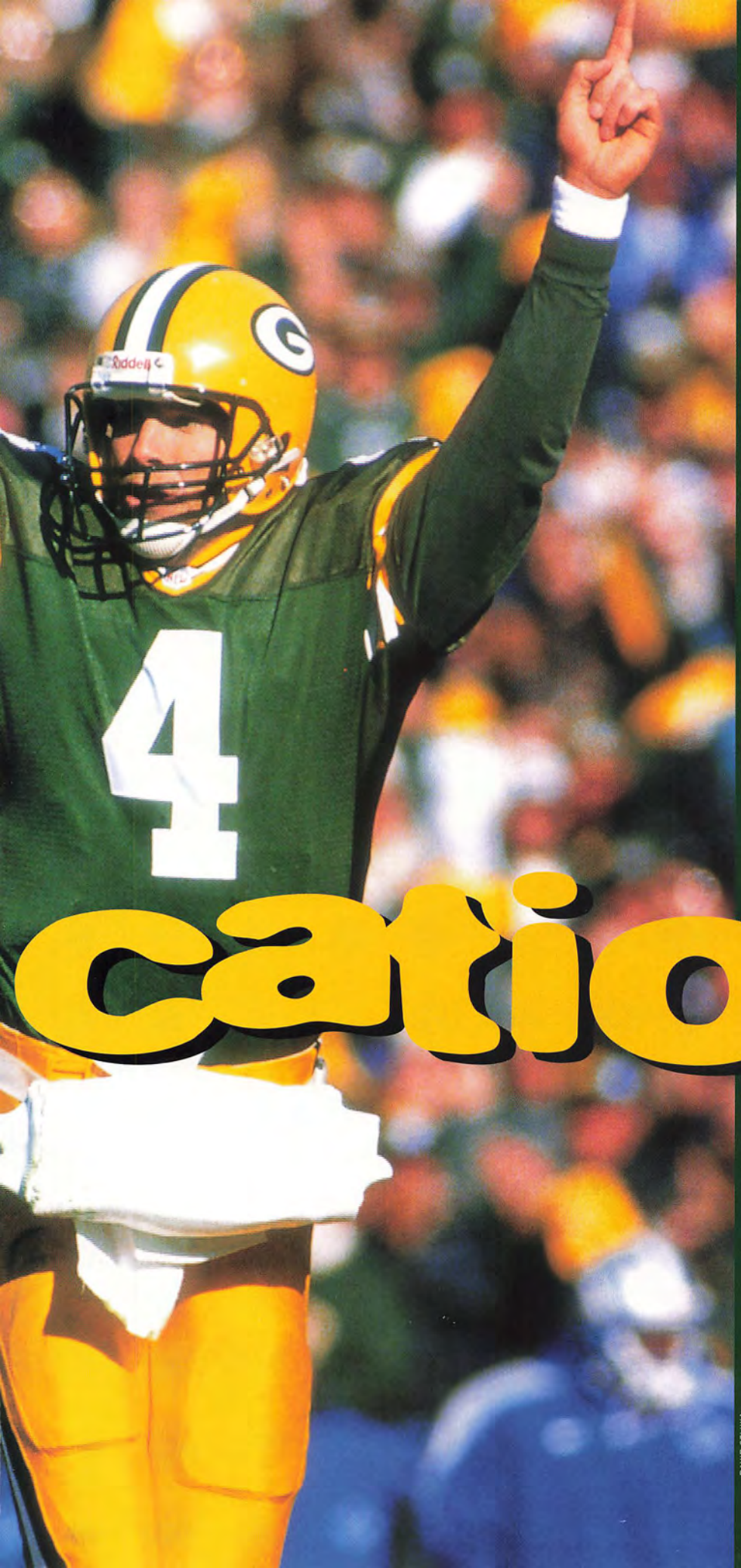
"We keep coming down here and getting lessons," a sullen Holmgren said after the 1995 NFC Championship Game. "With each game down here we've learned a little more. Hopefully we can evaluate the game and continue to learn."

But then came the words that expressed his real sentiments. "I'm tired of lessons," he snapped.

So, as thoughts turned to 1996 and the promise of a new beginning, the last thing the Packers needed was a distraction. But that is precisely what they received.

On May 15, quarterback Brett Favre, the NFL's most valuable player, announced that he was entering a rehabilitation center to treat an addiction to a painkiller, Vicodin. Rumors abounded throughout the NFL. How bad was the addiction? To what other substances did it extend? Whispered concerns traveled throughout tiny Green Bay, where a celebrity can find no place to disappear.

When Favre made a public appearance on July 17, the day before he reported to training camp, he stepped into a spotlight that would engulf his every action. Jaw squared and voice firm, he confronted re-



porters and indicated that he understood.

"There are going to be times this year when I throw interceptions," he said. "There are going to be games where I could have played better. I don't want to be sitting here having to answer questions, 'Was it because you didn't take painkillers? Did you take them again?' That's beyond me. My main focus is winning the Super Bowl."

And then there were the mundane questions waiting to be addressed by Holmgren and his staff, including how to plug some disconcerting leaks in Green Bay's defense. The head coach had been disappointed in his defense's performance in 1995, especially when it came to stopping the pass.

So, general manager Ron Wolf huddled with his coach, and the two went about the task of finding personnel who could make a difference....

Santana Dotson, a free agent who had collected 23 sacks in four seasons in Tampa Bay, replaced John Jurkovic at defensive tackle. Free safety Eugene Robinson, with 42 career interceptions, was acquired from Seattle in a trade for defensive end Matt LaBounty. Linebacker

cation!

George Koonce moved from the outside to the middle in place of departed free agent Fred Strickland, and second-year pro Brian Williams, an outside linebacker, was elevated to the starting lineup.

And there was one other roster addition, barely noticed when it happened July 12: Former Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard, a four-year disappointment as a wide receiver at Washington and Jacksonville, was signed to beef up a

DAVID STLUKA

Touchdown! *Brett Favre, with an NFL-high 39 touchdown passes in 1996, spent a lot of time with his arms raised.*

DAVID STLUKA

Dee-fense! *Newcomers Santana Dotson (71) and Eugene Robinson (41) strengthened the defense.*

kick-return game that produced little excitement in Green Bay the season before.

So much change. Such high expectations. So few guarantees.

Who could have predicted what would lie in store in the NFL's 16-game season?

- Favre would pass for 39 touchdowns (the third-highest total ever), earning consensus most-valuable-player honors for the second consecutive season.
- A defense featuring Pro Bowl end Reggie White and Pro Bowl safety LeRoy Butler would lead the league in both fewest yards and fewest points allowed.
- Howard would blossom as an NFL star, setting a league record for punt-return yardage in a season, averaging 15.1 yards per return, and scoring 3 touchdowns.
- The Packers would finish with 13 regular-season victories, equaling the club record set by, yes, a Vince Lombardi team.

In retrospect, the Packers made success seem far too simple. Only three of their 16 regular-season opponents scored more than 20 points, while the Packers *averaged* nearly 29 points per game. They led the NFC in turnover ratio (plus-15), went unbeaten at home, and strung together winning streaks of three games, five games, and five games before the playoffs even began.

But back on September 1, when a team filled with question marks opened its season at Tampa Bay, the curious and the skeptical wondered what they would see. Would Favre regain his old magic? Would the defense have any continuity? Would a warm-weather road game slow a cold-weather team? The answers arrived with the subtlety of a hand grenade: Green Bay 34, Tampa Bay 3.

"A lot of people were asking a lot of questions," tight end Keith Jackson said, "and we had to find the answers for ourselves." Jackson's find included 3 touchdown receptions on a day when Favre completed 20 of 27 passes. The defense had 4 interceptions and limited the Buccaneers to 176 total yards.

The rest of the NFC should have taken note. A warning shot had been fired.

Almost as soon as the season began, Holmgren observed an I'll-show-you attitude in Favre that warmed the coach's heart.

"He's got a bit of a chip on his shoulder," the coach said, with a twinkle in his eyes. "By that I mean he feels that people think last year he was in dreamland half the time. And that was not the way it was."

Nor did it go unnoticed that the Packers' quarterback had shed 12 pounds of body fat in the offseason. Always an elusive, carefree scrambler, he now had become a lean, mean leader of the green machine.

Attitudes, good or bad, can be contagious on an NFL team. Clearly, the Packers contracted Favre's

fever during that first game. A 39-13 victory over playoff-bound Philadelphia in game 2 preceded a 42-10 destruction of San Diego. By the time the Packers had rolled up a record of 3-0, *Sports Illustrated* had hopped aboard the Packers' wagon: "Before this season is over, some team will give Green Bay a game. Until that occurs, however, the NFL might consider enacting a mercy rule."

Some years ago, an appearance on the cover of *SI* was believed to summon a demon spell for the subject. The superstitious might have chosen to blame the magazine for the Packers' pratfall in week 4—a 30-21 loss to Minnesota—but Holmgren thought the explanation was simpler: 3 fumbles, 1 interception, and 8 penalties.

A dose of humility accompanied the defeat. Favre was sacked 7 times.

"Every time I looked back, he [Favre] was on the ground," center Frank Winters said.

For the first time since training camp—they were 3-1 in the preseason—the Packers looked remarkably human. It was enough to make a team deemed a Super Bowl favorite look at itself in the mirror. After being outgained by 134 yards and limited to 8 first downs by the Vikings, Green Bay awoke on September 23 to find a strange sight in the morning paper. With a record of 3-1, the Packers no longer owned a share of the NFC Central Division lead. They were a game behind 4-0 Minnesota. It would be the only time during the season that the Packers were not in first place.

Victories at Seattle (31-10) and Chicago (37-6) set the stage for a long-anticipated showdown, a Monday night appearance against the San Francisco 49ers. A crowd of 60,716 packed Lambeau Field to join the Packers on what turned into a roller-coaster ride. Green Bay was ahead 6-0 after one quarter...behind 17-6 at halftime...tied 17-17 late in the fourth quarter...and trailing 20-17 with 1 minute 50 seconds to play.

Then Favre refreshed the memories of those who had forgotten why he had been the league's most valuable player in 1995. A 10-play, 69-yard drive—featuring a 12-yard run by Favre—set up a game-tying 31-yard field goal with eight seconds left. When the 49ers stalled and were forced to punt in overtime, the Packers began at their 44-yard line. A 7-play, 21-yard drive set up Chris Jacke's 53-yard field goal in overtime. At 6-1, the Packers owned the best record in the NFC.

VERNON J. BIEVER

Costly Victory: *Wide receiver Robert Brooks (knee) was lost for the season in a victory over the 49ers.*

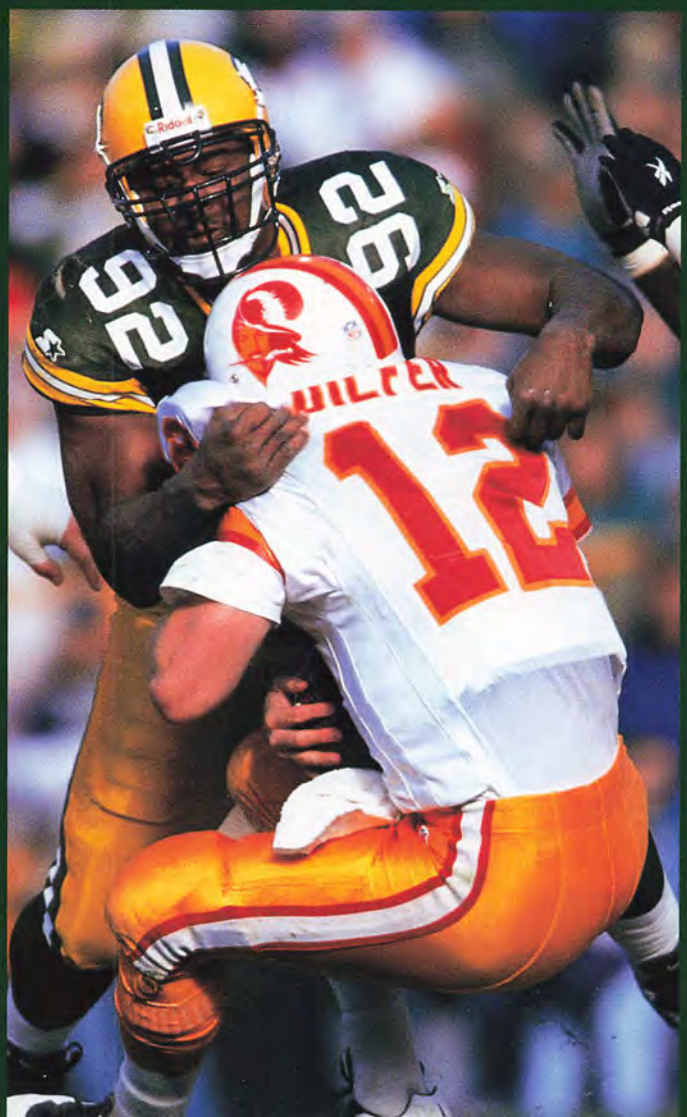
"This will make believers out of a lot of people that we are one of the elite teams in the league," Jacke said.

But the victory came at a cost. Brooks, who suffered torn knee ligaments on the Packers' first play from scrimmage, was lost for the season. Gone from the lineup were his 23 catches for 344 yards. Gone, too, was a deep threat who had scored 4 touchdowns in six games.

The little things often go unnoticed in a Super Bowl season. Among those in this case had been Wolf's offseason decision to sign wide receiver Don Beebe. An eight-year veteran who had started for Buffalo in Super Bowl XXVIII, Beebe added experience and speed to a depth chart that suddenly was being tested.

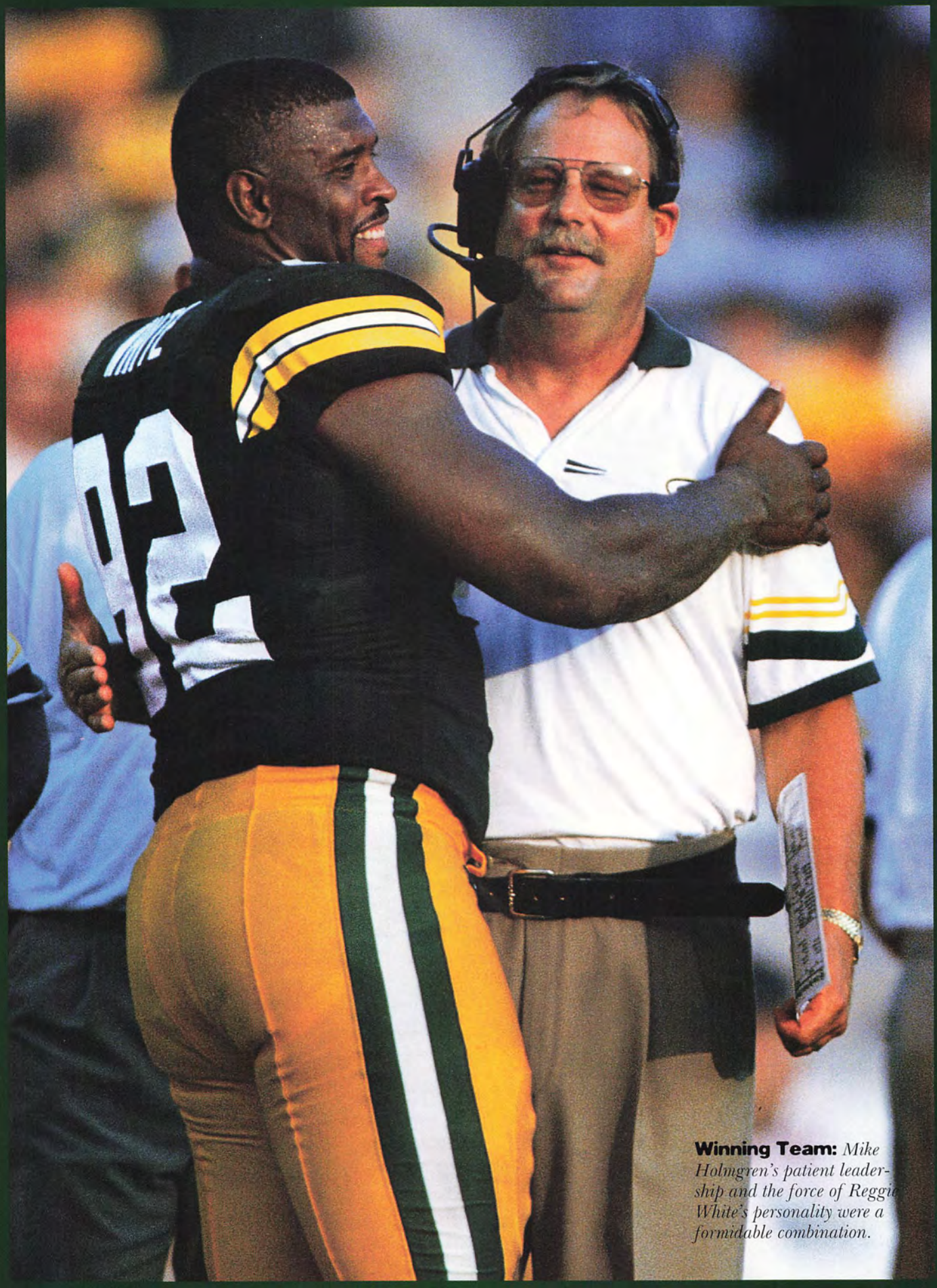
When Brooks went down, Beebe went in. His 11 catches for 220 yards, including a 59-yard touchdown, were among the reasons that the Packers defeated San Francisco.

But the Packers could not have been prepared for what was about to come. Second-year wide receiver Antonio Freeman, quickly blossom-



GLENN JAMES

The Bucs Stop Here: *Green Bay's 34-3 victory over Tampa Bay in week 1 was a sign of things to come.*



Winning Team: *Mike Holmgren's patient leadership and the force of Reggie White's personality were a formidable combination.*

BOB ROSATO

ing into a star, suffered a broken forearm in the Packers' next game, a lackluster 13-7 victory over Tampa Bay that provided little reason for celebration. Clouds seemed to be gathering quickly overhead.

The Packers' team that visited Kansas City on November 10 owned a record of 8-1, but the offense bore little resemblance to the early season powder keg. The Chiefs' blitzing defense harassed Favre (4 sacks for minus-25 yards). A depleted receiving corps was ineffective (Favre's top three receivers were running backs Dorsey Levens, William Henderson, and Edgar Bennett.) The outcome of game 10 never was in doubt—a 27-20 loss—and to make matters worse, tight end Chmura suffered a torn muscle in his arch that would keep him out of the lineup nearly a month.

It was the worst of times to face Dallas, the foremost thorn in the Packers' sides. And, for the seventh successive time, including playoffs, the game was scheduled for Texas Stadium. "I wish the NFL would schedule a [Cowboys] game in Green Bay once in a while," Winters said.

So when Dallas recorded a 21-6 victory, featuring 7 field goals by Chris Boniol, the question was not what happened to the Packers. The question was: Would the Packers ever be the same?

"With Robert Brooks out, they really come down a notch," said Cowboys safety George Teague, who had played for the Packers in 1995. "Without Antonio Freeman, it really hurts. The whole focus now is on Brett."

Holmgren, who has spent nearly a fourth of his 48 years in the NFL, appreciates the value of patience during a 16-game schedule. He dismissed the concerns of a two-game losing streak with a comment meant more for his team than reporters: "It's one game on our schedule. We've got five more left in the season."

The story of the Packers' final five games is several stories in one, all of which contributed to the evolution of a champion.

It is 12-year veteran Reggie White, who signed with the Packers in 1993 because he could foresee a Super Bowl in the team's future. White motivated his teammates with the force of his personality to keep their focus on their season-long goal.

It is Freeman and Chmura returning to the roster, Freeman oblivious to a cast on his forearm, Chmura ignoring the tenderness in his foot.

It is Holmgren trusting his instincts and claiming off waivers, wide receiver Andre Rison, a talent with a reputation for intemperate behavior. "The past is done," Holmgren said, simply. "You need us, we need you."

The Packers, so brilliant early in the year, were back.

"Early in the season," Freeman said, "we were a confident, humbly arrogant team. Then we came crashing back to earth. Now that we're healthy, if we get our swagger back, we like our chances."

The Packers strung together convincing victories over St. Louis (24-9), Chicago (28-17), and Denver (41-6), and confidence returned to Favre's voice.

"We struggled for a while," he said, "and people said our receivers couldn't get off the line. Well, let teams bump Antonio and Andre now, and see if they can stop us."

Victories over Detroit and Minnesota sent Green Bay into the playoffs with a five-game winning streak—and some new worries for opponents. Howard returned a punt 92 yards in a 31-3 victory over the Lions. Edgar Bennett exploded for 109 rushing yards in a 38-10 victory over the Vikings. The Packers had peaked at the ideal time.

At playoff time in the NFL, it is difficult to overstate the advantage of playing at home. A boisterous crowd and familiar turf are a difficult combination to overcome. Particularly so at Lambeau Field, where the Packers had won 16 consecutive games.

Welcome Arrival: *The slumping passing attack came to life again after Andre Rison (84) joined the roster.*

MIKE ELIASON

MARK BETTINGER

Two of a Kind: *Tight ends Keith Jackson (left) and Mark Chmura took turns as Favre's favorite target.*

When the San Francisco 49ers arrived for a divisional playoff game on January 4 to find an unfriendly stadium filled with screaming fans on a cold, rainy day, they surely must have wondered what they had done to deserve such a fate.

The Packers struck twice in the first quarter—on Howard's 71-yard punt return and on a 4-yard pass from Favre to Rison following another Howard punt return, this one for 46 yards. They struck again on Bennett's 2-yard run to build a 21-0 lead. San Francisco never recovered. Green Bay 35, San Francisco 14.

"That," said 49ers coach George Seifert, "is a damn good football team."

Exactly 364 days after their 1995 season had ended in Dallas, with Favre staring blankly at the ground and the Cowboys celebrating an NFC championship, the Packers took the field in the NFC Championship Game with a purpose etched in their expressions. The Super Bowl again was one victory away.

"I think when you get that far and lose like we did last year, that only strengthens your resolve," Holmgren said.

The Packers had salivated at the prospect of playing the Cowboys in Green Bay. Long after they had clinched the divisional title, the Packers maintained their drive for the home-field advantage. Dallas could expect a payback.

"Until this organization beats Dallas," Butler said, "I don't think people will really respect us."

So the 1996 NFC Championship Game was a disappointment of sorts because the Dallas Cowboys were not on hand. The 60,216 Green Bay fans who braved a wind chill of minus-27 degrees on January 12 had to be content with a victory over the surprising Carolina Panthers, who had dispatched the Cowboys in a divisional playoff game.

In the Green Bay cold, the Panthers forged two early leads—7-0 and 10-7—but the outcome never was in serious doubt. The Packers' relentless offense gouged out 479 yards. Green Bay's hyperactive defense collected 2 sacks and 3 turnovers.

The Packers' seventh consecutive victory, 30-13, earned the franchise a trip to the Super Bowl for the first time since the 1967 season. No one needed to tell the players who coached or played on that team.

"Everybody who has ever come in here has been compared to Lombardi," said Packers President Bob Harlan. "Our players always have been compared to what the Packers did in the sixties. But these players have written their own chapter to Packers history, and they may have many more to come."

No one would enjoy that more than Reggie White. But he was too busy enjoying today to think about tomorrow.

"I made a decision to come here because I thought this team had a chance to win a Super Bowl," he said. "I thought we had a quarterback who could lead us. I thought we had a coach who could build this team. Everything I said has come to pass."

THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

Green Bay Packers Team Statistics
(Regular Season)

Won 13, Lost 3				Attendance
09/01	W	34-3	at Tampa Bay	54,102
09/09	W	39-13	Philadelphia	60,666
09/15	W	42-10	San Diego	60,584
09/22	L	21-30	at Minnesota	64,168
09/29	W	31-10	at Seattle	59,973
10/6	W	37-6	at Chicago	65,480
10/14	W	23-20*	San Francisco	60,716
10/27	W	13-7	Tampa Bay	60,627
11/3	W	28-18	Detroit	60,695
11/10	L	20-27	at Kansas City	79,281
11/18	L	6-21	at Dallas	65,032
11/24	W	24-9	at St. Louis	61,499
12/1	W	28-17	Chicago	59,682
12/8	W	41-6	Denver	60,712
12/15	W	31-3	at Detroit	73,214
12/22	W	38-10	Minnesota	59,306

*OT

Score by Periods	1	2	3	4	OT	Pts.
Team	76	125	136	116	3	456
Opponents	32	96	25	57	0	210

	Packers		Opp.
		(NFL Rank in Parentheses)	
Total First Downs	338	(2) (1)	248
Rushing	118		74
Passing	197		151
Penalty	23		23
3rd Down: Made/Att.	97/219		74/226
3rd Down Pct.	44.3	(2) (2)	32.7
4th Down: Made/Att.	5/11		14/22
4th Down Pct.	45.5	(17) (27)	63.6
Possession Avg.	31:44		28:16
Total Net Yards	5,535	(5) (1)	4,156
Avg. Per Game	345.9		259.8
Total Plays	1,053		981
Avg. Per Play	5.3		4.2
Net Yards Rushing	1,838	(11) (4)	1,416
Avg. Per Game	114.9		88.5
Total Rushes	465		400
Net Yards Passing	3,697	(5) (1)	2,740
Avg. Per Game	231.1		171.3
Sacked/Yards Lost	40/241		37/202
Gross Yards	3,938		2,942
Att./Completions	548/328		544/283
Completion Pct.	59.9		52.0
Had Intercepted	13		26
Punts/Average	68/42.4	(19) (17)	90/43.1
Net Punting Avg.	68/36.3	(13) (1)	90/32.5
Penalties/Yards	92/714		107/797
Fumbles/Ball Lost	33/11		25/13
Touchdowns	56	(1) (1)	19
Rushing	9		7
Passing	39		12
Returns	8		0

DAVID STLUKA

THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

Individual Statistics
(Regular Season)

Scoring	TD	Ru	Pa	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS
Jacke	0	0	0	0	51/53	21/27	0	114
Jackson	10	0	10	0	0/0	0/0	0	60
Levens	10	5	5	0	0/0	0/0	0	60
Freeman	9	0	9	0	0/0	0/0	0	54
Beebe	6	0	4	2	0/0	0/0	0	36
R. Brooks	4	0	4	0	0/0	0/0	0	24
Bennett	3	2	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	22
Howard	3	0	0	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Favre	2	2	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Mayes	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Mickens	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Butler	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Evans	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Henderson	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Koonce	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Rison	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Team	**56**	**9**	**39**	**8**	**51/53**	**21/27**	**1**	**456**
Opponents	**19**	**7**	**12**	**0**	**17/17**	**25/27**	**1**	**210**

2-Pt. Conversions: Bennett 2, Team 2-3, Opponents 1-2

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Jacke	0/0	6/6	9/11	5/9	1/1
Team	**0/0**	**6/6**	**9/11**	**5/9**	**1/1**
Opponents	**0/0**	**4/5**	**9/9**	**12/13**	**0/0**

Jacke: (23G, 40G, 46N)(29G, 44G, 38G)(48N)()(36G, 38N)(32G)(30G, 25G, 35G, 31G, 53G)(40G, 48G, 46N)() (24G, 49G)(32N)(37G)(46N)(33G, 22G)(20G)(35G)
Opponents: (48G)()(43G, 46N)(34G, 44G, 33G)(44G) (40G, 41G)(48G, 28G)(27N)(48G)(26G, 22G)(45G, 37G, 42G, 45G, 35G, 39G, 28G)()(34G)(40G, 39G)(39G)(34G)

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Freeman	56	933	16.7	51*t*	9
Jackson	40	505	12.6	51*t*	10
Beebe	39	699	17.9	80*t*	4
Levens	31	226	7.3	49	5
Bennett	31	176	5.7	25*t*	1
Chmura	28	370	13.2	29	0
Henderson	27	203	7.5	27	1
R. Brooks	23	344	15.0	38	4
Mickens	18	161	8.9	19	2
Rison	13	135	10.4	22*t*	1
Howard	13	95	7.3	12	0
Mayes	6	46	7.7	12	2
Thomason	3	45	15.0	24	0
Team	**328**	**3,938**	**12.0**	**80t**	**39**
Opponents	**283**	**2,942**	**10.4**	**69**	**12**

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	LG	B
Hentrich	68	2,886	42.4	36.3	9	28	65	0
Team	**68**	**2,886**	**42.4**	**36.3**	**9**	**28**	**65**	**0**
Opponents	**90**	**3,876**	**43.1**	**32.5**	**4**	**15**	**63**	**1**

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	LG	Sack/Lost	Rating
Favre	543	325	3,899	59.9	7.18	39	7.2	13	2.4	80*t*	40/241	95.8
McMahon	4	3	39	75.0	9.75	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	0/0	105.2
Hentrich	1	0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6
Team	**548**	**328**	**3,938**	**59.9**	**7.19**	**39**	**7.1**	**13**	**2.4**	**80*t***	**40/241**	**95.7**
Opponents	**544**	**283**	**2,942**	**52.0**	**5.41**	**12**	**2.2**	**26**	**4.8**	**69**	**37/202**	**55.4**

Rushing	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Bennett	222	899	4.0	23	2
Levens	121	566	4.7	24	5
Favre	49	136	2.8	23	2
Henderson	39	130	3.3	14	0
Jervey	26	106	4.1	12	0
R. Brooks	4	2	0.5	6	0
McMahon	4	-1	-0.2	2	0
Team	**465**	**1,838**	**4.0**	**24**	**9**
Opponents	**400**	**1,416**	**3.5**	**37*t***	**7**

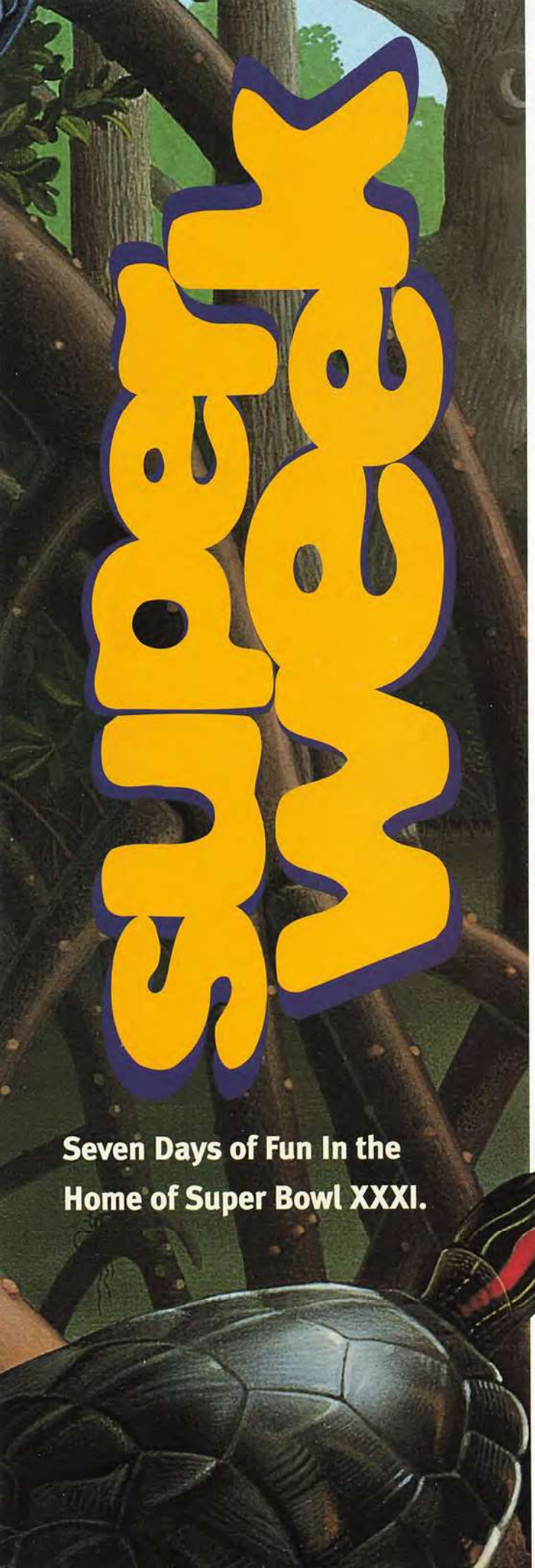
Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
E. Robinson	6	107	17.8	39	0
Butler	5	149	29.8	90*t*	1
Evans	5	102	20.4	63	1
Koonce	3	84	28.0	75*t*	1
Newsome	2	22	11.0	20	0
White	1	46	46.0	46	0
Prior	1	7	7.0	7	0
Dowden	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hollinquest	1	2	2.0	2	0
Simmons	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	**26**	**524**	**20.2**	**90*t***	**3**
Opponents	**13**	**98**	**7.5**	**41**	**0**

Punt Returns	No	FC	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Howard	58	16	875	15.1	92*t*	3
Prior	0	1	0	—	—	0
Team	**58**	**17**	**875**	**15.1**	**92t**	**3**
Opponents	**29**	**15**	**237**	**8.2**	**26**	**0**

Kickoff Returns	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Howard	22	460	20.9	40	0
Beebe	15	403	26.9	90*t*	1
Levens	5	84	16.8	29	0
Henderson	2	38	19.0	23	0
Freeman	1	16	16.0	16	0
Jervey	1	17	17.0	17	0
Thomason	1	20	20.0	20	0
Team	**47**	**1,038**	**22.1**	**90*t***	**1**
Opponents	**76**	**1,649**	**21.7**	**45**	**0**

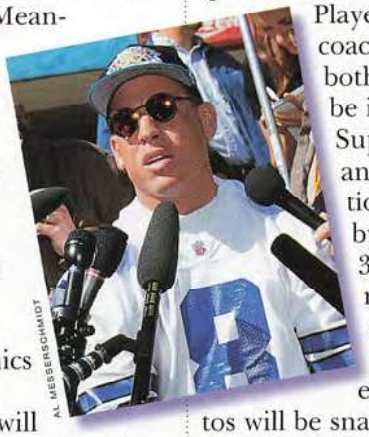
Sacks: White 8.5, Butler 6.5, S. Dotson 5.5, S. Jones 5.0, Evans 3.0, Wilkins 3.0, Simmons 2.5, Gi. Brown 1.0, McKenzie 1.0, Clavelle 0.5, B. Williams 0.5, Team 37.0, Opponents 40.0

DAVID STLUKA



monday-tuesday january 20-21

Super Week kicks off with the arrival of the two teams. Meanwhile, other NFL players will make visits to local hospitals on Monday, cheering up young patients. Football clinics for other young fans will be held in several parks around town.


AL MESSERSCHMIDT

On Tuesday, media day (pictured) is center stage. Players and coaches from both teams will be in The Superdome to answer questions posed by more than 3,000 journalists from around the world. And enough photos will be snapped to pave the bridge across Lake Ponchartrain.

http//www.superbowl.com

If you have a few minutes between beignets (see page 19), visit the cyberhome of Super Bowl XXXI, on-line at superbowl.com. Produced by the NFL in association with Fox Sports and Starwave, the Web site has everything from team statistics to live chats with NFL stars to details of Super Week events. The site also will host the only cybercast of the game.

SUPER BOWL XXXI .com

The New Orleans Dictionary

Throughout "Super Week," check the New Orleans Dictionary to help you fit in to life in the Crescent City.

New Orleans (nyew-OAR-lins or nah-WAR-lins), *prop. n*: **1.** The major city and cultural heart of Louisiana. **2.** Birthplace of jazz, also host to world-famous Mardi Gras celebration. (*Never* pronounced new oar-LEENS, unless you want to wear a sticker on your forehead that says "Tourist!")

Cajun (KAY-jen) *n, adj*: **1.** A cultural identity based on the French population ousted from Acadia in Canada in the 1700s. The Acadians (say it fast...you'll hear Cajun in there somewhere) settled in and around New Orleans, and many current citizens proudly claim that heritage.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEN JACOBSEN

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Super Week Wednesday, January 22

Today's theme is kids, the NFL fans and players of tomorrow.

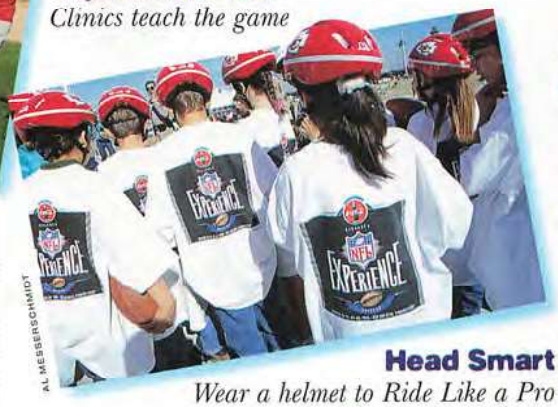
A press conference announces plans for the newest **Youth Education Town** (see below), a legacy of every Super Week since 1993.

The NFL Experience (see page 22), pro football's interactive theme park, hosts a special pre-opening day for more than 2,000 underprivileged students. The games, exhibits, and attractions open to the public on Thursday.

More than 300 kids from the New Orleans area learn about bike safety at the **Ride Like a Pro** event at Tad Gormley Stadium. NFL players wear helmets... bicycle riders should, too!

MIKE MOORE

Tips from a Pro
Clinics teach the game


AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Head Smart
Wear a helmet to Ride Like a Pro

Super Kids

One of the NFL's season-long themes has been Play Football, a rallying cry to encourage kids to participate and enjoy the game. And one of the NFL's perennial themes is helping kids learn, grow, and strive to improve in all areas of their lives.

PETER BROUTLET/2

Play Football! *Fun, fun, fun at Youth Clinics and Kids' Day at The NFL Experience.*

During the season, the Play Football campaign included pro-education efforts such as the **JC Penney/ Starter Take a Player to School** program, **F.A.C.T.** (Football and Academics: A Champion-ship Team) trading cards, and the **NFL Teacher of the Month** award. The NFL's youth football programs included **Youth Training Camps**, **NFL Flag**, and **NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass & Kick**.

During Super Week, football and learning came together in two ways:

Youth Education Town (YET): Since Super Bowl XXVII, a vital legacy of every game has been the creation in the host city of a recreational and educational center for the city's at-risk kids. Created with proceeds from The NFL Experience and many other Super Week activities, the New Orleans YET will provide computers, classrooms, sports sites, and activity rooms.

Play Football Super Bowl Clinics: Dozens of NFL players showed youngsters how to pass, catch, and kick at parks around town. Some day, a Super Bowl MVP will say he (or she?) first threw a football at a Play Football Super Bowl clinic.

J. GALLEGOS

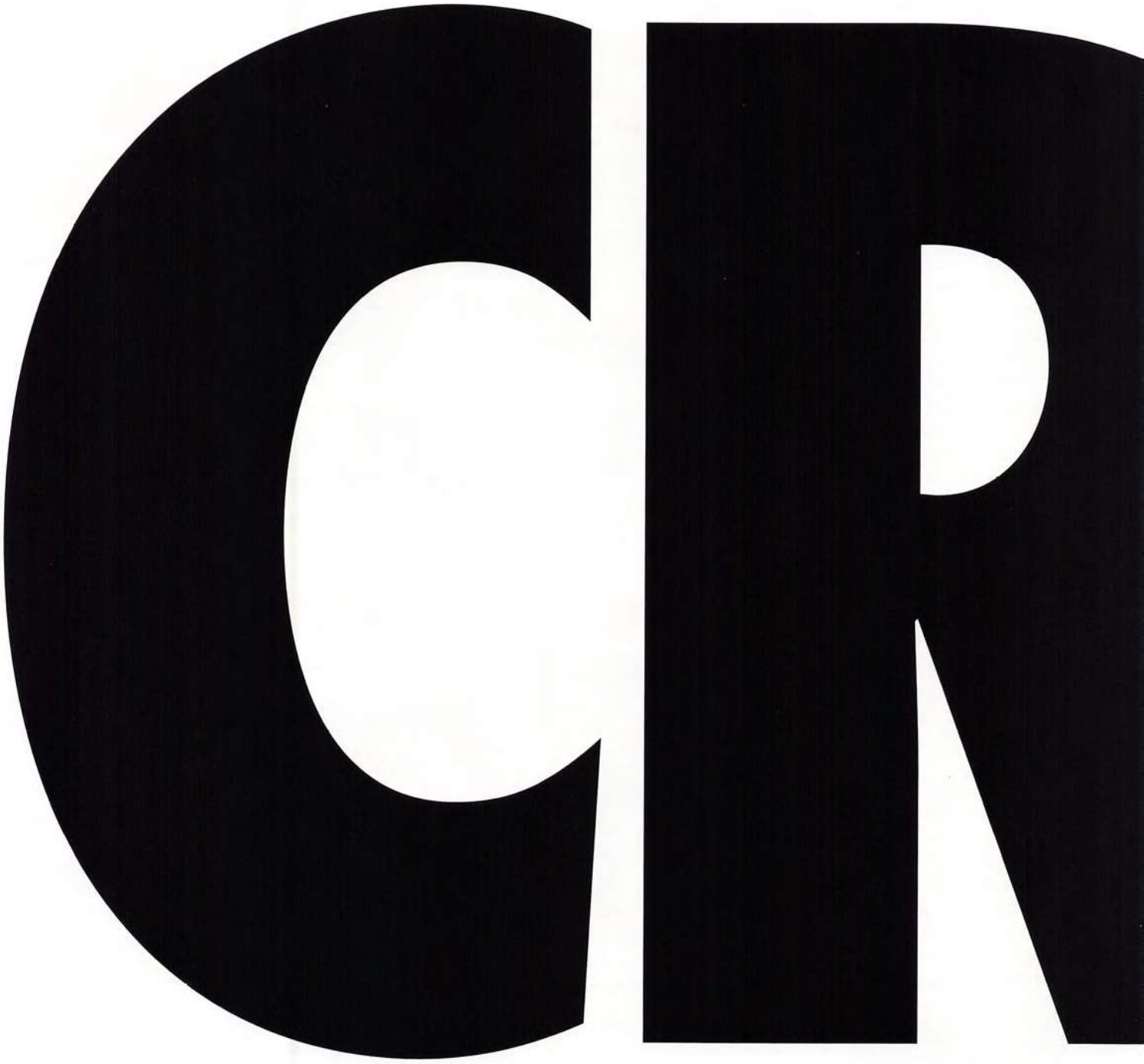
The New Orleans Dictionary

Beignet (BAIN-yay), *n*:
1. This scrumptious fried pastry, sprinkled with powdered sugar, is the best way to start a New Orleans morning.
2. They're the house specialty at the riverside Café du Monde.

C.I.T.Y. Football

Another new NFL youth football program was demonstrated in New Orleans. **C.I.T.Y.** (Challenge and Inspire Today's Youth) Football leagues, aimed at inner-city kids, had trial runs in six cities in 1996 and will expand to more in 1997.

Today Super at the Bowl



Hold up this ad when the TV cameras point at you, and

Boy, are you lucky. First, you scored tickets to Super Bowl XXXI. Now, you get to give millions of viewers a sneak peek at the Honda CR-V–a 4WD

1-800-33-HONDA, ext. 898, and www.honda.com. ©1996 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

CR-V

we'll be your best friend.

sport/utility vehicle with the soul of a sports car. So, put down the giant foam finger and show the new CR-V to the world.

HONDA

today super at the bowl

thursday, january 23

A potpourri of events headline the day. **The NFL Experience**, the biggest thing in town besides the game, opens to the public today (see below).

Golfers head for City Park for the thirteenth annual **NFL Charity Golf Classic**. Since its inception, the celebrity tournament has raised more than $1 million for charities, including a YET Center in the last four Super Bowl cities.

Dozens of NFL players host the appropriately named **NFL Players' Party** at Municipal Auditorium, where they sign autographs, dance with fans to live music from top stars, play in a volleyball tournament, and tackle interactive games.

And, at the **Jax Brewery**, Fox Field is born, with music, food, Super Bowl souvenirs, and lots more.

In the evening, an **Art Walk** through the Warehouse District will include the finest art from New Orleans galleries.

ALLEN KEE

MANNY RUBIO

Tee off
NFL Charity Golf Classic

Sign Here
Fans meet their NFL heroes at the Players' Party.

quite an experience

The **NFL Experience** is a gigantic interactive theme park with football fun for fans of all ages. Located in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and presented by Coca-Cola and Sprint, The NFL Experience features more than 50 games, tests of football skill, and historical displays from the Pro Football Hall of Fame, plus visits from NFL players and shopping in the FootLocker NFL Team Shop. You can see how you measure up to the pros; catch the Punt Bomb; compete in the Quarterback Challenge; and lots more.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/2

A highlight of The NFL Experience is the **Super Bowl Card Show**, featuring more than 180 booths filled with sports memorabilia, trading cards, and collectibles. Dozens of NFL stars will be signing hundreds of free autographs for fans.

PETER BROUILLET

NFLX: *It's the next best thing to being in the Super Bowl itself.*

The NFL Experience

Hours: Thursday and Friday (3 P.M.– 11 P.M.), Saturday (11 A.M. – 11 P.M.), Sunday (10 A.M. – 4 P.M.). Tickets will be sold at the door, and also are available through TicketMaster (800-488-5252 or 504-522-5555).

PETER BROUILLET

The New Orleans Dictionary

Vieux Carré (VYOO ka-RAY), *prop. n*: **1.** Literally "old square," Vieux Carré is the French Quarter, the site of the original New Orleans settlement. **2.** It's where fans will spend most of their time this week.

Vieux Carré

CONSIDERING THE LEVEL OF GREATNESS IT TAKES TO GET IN, DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY WOULD ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS?

RING THE BELL
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Pardon our rhetorical questions.
Because as everyone knows,
the Pro Football Hall of Fame
is one of the millions of places
that take VISA®, but won't take
any card from American Express.

Visa. It's everywhere you want to be.®

VISA NFL
OFFICIAL CARD

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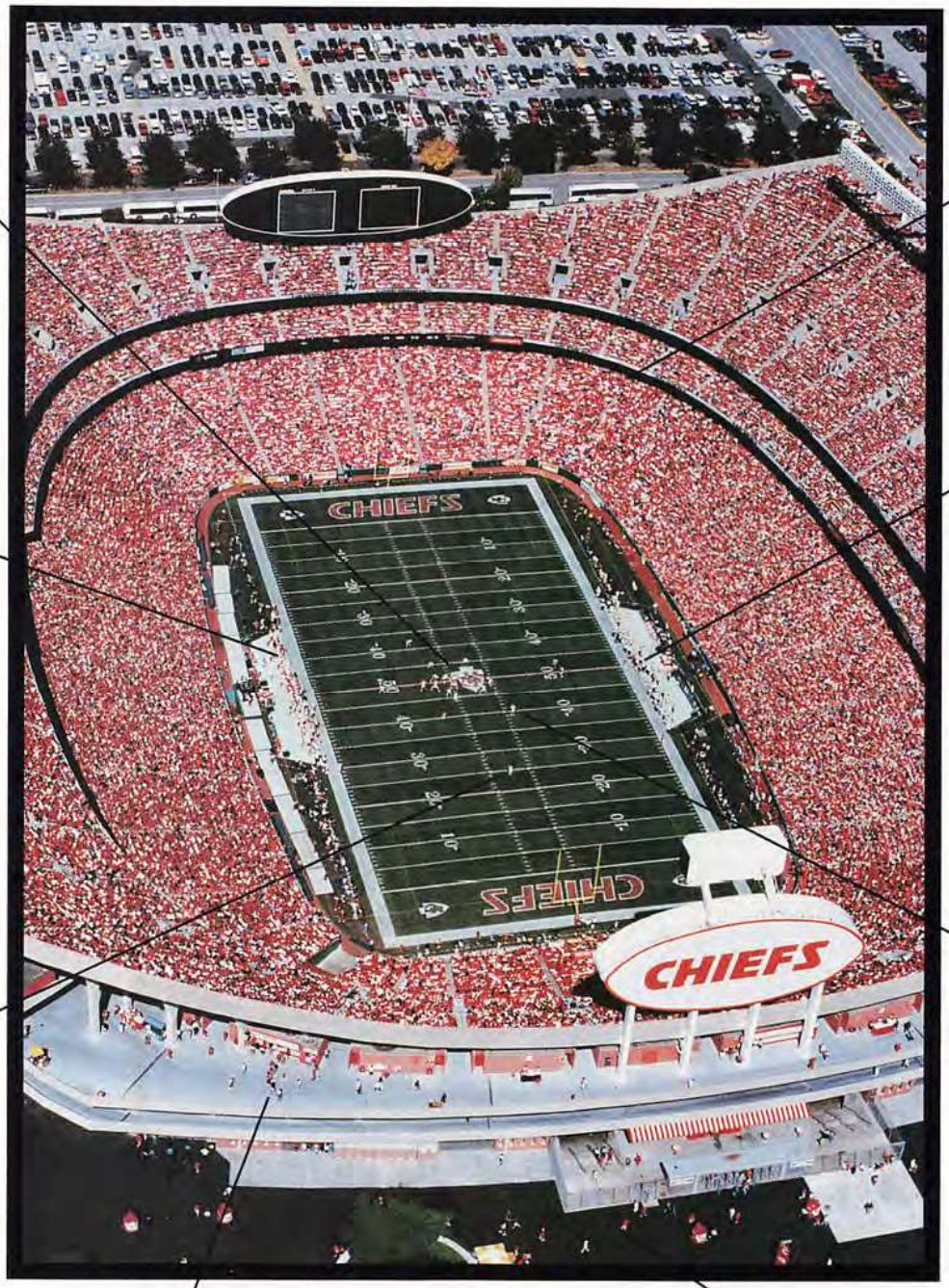
If you're wondering what Sprint's new relationship with the NFL™ is all about, here's a quick overview.



Instead of mouthing, "Hi Mom" to the camera, a player actually uses Sprint Sense® to call her long distance.

In the true spirit of the game, a first-time luxury box guy uses a Sprint phone line to deliver his next-door neighbor a taunting, "In your face!"

Review of game film on Sprint's Digital Network leads league officials to declare Macarena touchdown celebrations illegal use of dance.

Teams use Sprint Intranet to discuss blitzes, bombs, cross blocks, and other subtleties of the game.

Asked to evaluate Sprint's Videoconferencing system, the chief referee raises his arms in the air and declares emphatically, "It's good!"

Sprint Paging℠ unit allows star defensive back to inform his coaches that he wants to become a star wide receiver, too.

Concerned concession stand patrons breathe a collective sigh of relief when stadium officials issue a Sprint Broadcast Fax press release that squashes rumors of a pork shortage.

Fan standing just outside gate uses NFL™/Spree℠ prepaid card to call home to find out that, yes, the tickets are still sitting on the kitchen counter.

Call 1-800-PIN-DROP for residential service,
1-800-598-5000 for business service, or browse www.sprint.com.
Sprint congratulates Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs, on its 25th Anniversary.

Sprint.

The Official Telecommunications Provider to the NFL.

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today super at the bowl

GREG LEBOUEF

Throwbacks Bowl: *Didn't you tackle me once?*

The annual **NFL Champion Throwbacks Bowl** pits two teams of former NFL stars in a flag-football game on the main field at The NFL Experience.

Future World League stars will show their talents as some of the best high school football players from Europe and Mexico square off in the **AFTI Global Junior Championship** at Tad Gormley Stadium.

A.F.T.I. GLOBAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Wilson NEW ORLEANS 1997

And today marks the kickoff of the **FootAction NFL High School Quarterback Challenge**, a three-month, nationwide competition among the country's top young passers.

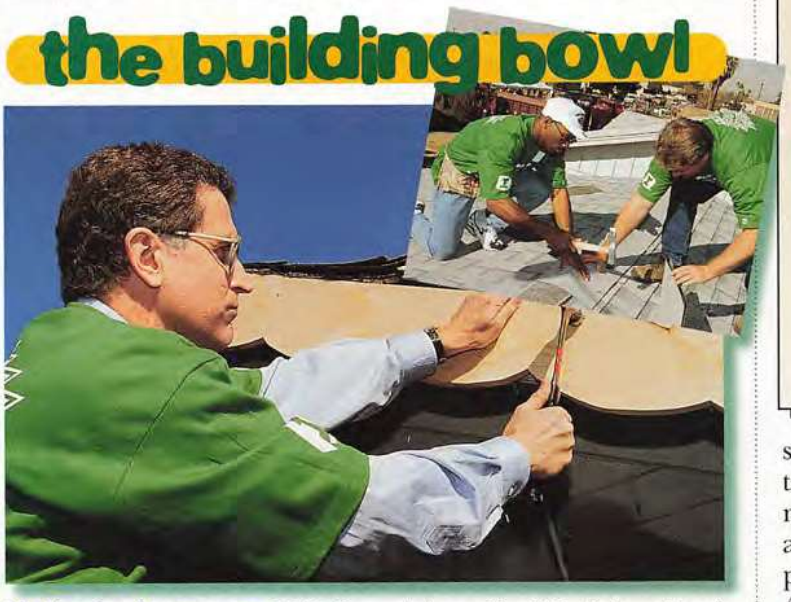
This evening, the annual **NFL Friday Night Party** kicks off the weekend.

The New Orleans Dictionary

Gumbo (GUM-boh), *n*: 1. Calling gumbo "just a stew-like dish made from meat, vegetables, and Cajun/Creole spices" is like calling the Super Bowl "just a game in January."

Jambalaya (jum-buh-LAI-uh), *n*: 1. Another dish intrinsic to the local palate, jambalaya is a melange of beef, chicken, pork, sausage, ham, duck, turkey, or alligator, mixed with vegetables and a spicy sauce, spooned over rice, and then baked.

the building bowl



RON VESELY/2

If I had a hammer: *NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue joined NFL players and volunteers at a Super Bowl house-raising.*

Giving back to the community is an ongoing part of the NFL's mission, through both member clubs and NFL Charities. That mission isn't forgotten amid the hoopla of Super Bowl week.

Just as they did at Super Bowl XXX, members of the NFL family participated in charity projects designed to provide housing for the less fortunate.

Christmas in April: Wearing hard hats instead of helmets and working under the auspices of the national home renovation charity, NFL players and other volunteers refurbished a pair of New Orleans homes owned by low-income senior citizens. The volunteers included NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and his wife Chan, the vice-president of Christmas in April.

Habitat for Humanity: The annual Super Bowl Build, undertaken by NFL players and coaches and volunteers, constructed homes for local low-income families. In the tradition of the national Habitat organization, the new homeowners worked alongside volunteers to build the houses.

Recycle, Please:

The NFL is working with local environmental officials again this year to recycle as much waste as possible from all the Super Bowl venues. Paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum will be recycled, excess food will find a home at local food banks, and mass transit will be used to limit auto traffic.

THE OFFICIAL DRINK OF JUST HAVING A DRINK.

JOHNNIE WALKER RED LABEL™

Enjoy Red Label Responsibly

©1996 Schieffelin & Somerset Co., New York, N.Y.
Johnnie Walker® Red Label®, Blended Scotch Whisky,
40% Alc./Vol., (80°)

Super Week

Saturday, January 25

today super at the bowl

The eve of Super Bowl Sunday brings awards presentations and a gala celebration.

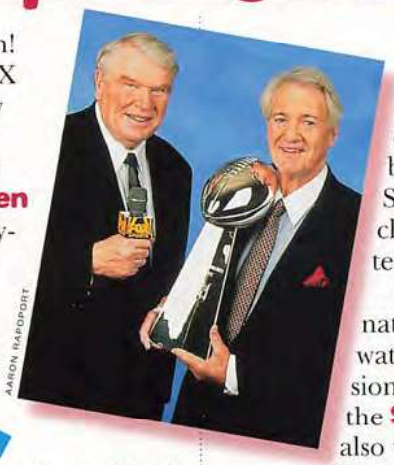
At a breakfast this morning, Athletes in Action presents **The Bart Starr Award**. Tonight, the **NFL Alumni** names its 1996 NFL Player of the Year.

The **Coca-Cola Taste of the NFL VI** features chefs from NFL cities and serves food to more than 2,000 guests. Attended by dozens of NFL players and alumni, the event benefits local and national hunger relief efforts.

SBTV on TNT broadcasts live from The NFL Experience for a second night. Highlights of this year's telecast include features on Super Bowl history, highlights of the events of Super Week, and the second annual **Vinny Awards**.

Also Saturday will be the first **MTV Rock and Jock** flag football game, matching NFL players, musicians and other celebrities.

super like a fox


AARON RAPOPORT

Pow! Boom! Bam! FOX Sports, led by effervescent commentator **John Madden** (left) and play-by-play man **Pat Summerall**, broadcasts its first Super Bowl this year.

Madden won Super Bowl XI as coach of the Raiders. Summerall, a 10-year NFL veteran with the Lions, Cardinals, and Giants, has spent the last 34 seasons in NFL broadcasting booths.

They'll be joined in New Orleans by pregame host James Brown and studio analysts Terry Bradshaw (see page 98), Howie Long, and Ronnie Lott. Bradshaw, Long, and Lott played on a combined nine Super Bowl championship teams.

Annually the nation's most-watched television program, the **Super Bowl** also will be sent live to more than 170 countries around the world via NFL International's satellite feed.

super schedule

PREGAME:
3:00 P.M. EST

GAME COVERAGE:
6:00 P.M. EST

FOX SPORTS IN NEW ORLEANS:
WVUE, Channel 8

super shows

JOHN CLARK

The **Super Bowl Concert Series** offers something for every musical taste.

Local rockers Better Than Ezra will kick things off Thursday at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena. National superstars **Hootie and the Blowfish** (above) perform there Friday.

The **NFL Jams** concert, featuring several top rap and rhythm and blues bands, comes to the Orpheum on Friday.

Illusionist **David Copperfield** and comedian **Jamie Foxx** also will perform as part of the series.

The New Orleans Dictionary

Zydeco (ZY-deh-ko), *n*:
1. A bouncy, ultra-danceable musical style with roots in country and bluegrass, melded with a Cajun flavor.

2. Its signature instrument is the accordion or squeezebox; listen for drums, bass, and rub boards, too.

In Your Ears

Once again, CBS Radio is broadcasting the Super Bowl to more than 400 affiliates in the U.S. and via Armed Forces Radio around the world. **Howard David** (right) and former NFL linebacker **Matt Millen** will call the game, heard locally on WSMB (1350 AM) and WWL (870 AM).

"Life is a journey" and "Enjoy the ride" are trademarks of Nissan Motor Corp. U.S.A.

Enjoy the ride.
NISSAN

today super at the bowl

ARIOLA/SPAIN

Presenting the first-ever Official **Super Bowl Macarena**. Yes, that's right, the 1996 dance craze makes its debut before today's game, performed en masse by the Superdome crowd. The chart-topping song will be performed by Spain's own **Los Del Rio**, the originators of the arm-waving, hip-swinging tune.

A traditional New Orleans **Mardi Gras** parade will follow, complete with brass bands, floats, colorful costumes, and traditional songs.

Topping off the show is Grammy-winning country-rock star **Mary Chapin Carpenter**. Accompanied by local Cajun favorite Beausoleil—plus hundreds of dancers—she'll peform her hit song "Down at the Twist and Shout." Feel free to do both.

FOX Sports' **Terry Bradshaw** (see page 98) will host the festivities.

pregame creators

Executive Producer: Bob Best
Associate Producer: Ed Jones
Choreographer: Lesslee Fitzmorris
Talent Coordinator: Rob Heller

national anthem

Luther Vandross, one of America's most popular pop and soul singers, performs the National Anthem before today's game. The creator of 11 platinum or double-platinum solo albums, his hit songs include "Here and Now" and "Love Power." Vandross, winner of three Grammy awards, recently released his latest album *Your Secret Love* and will headline a world tour later this year.

getting flip

BILL CUMMINGS

The six coaches who won Super Bowls played in New Orleans (Chicago's Mike Ditka [right], Oakland's Tom Flores, Dallas's Tom Landry, Pittsburgh's Chuck Noll, Kansas City's Hank Stram, and San Francisco's George Seifert) share duties today in the coin flip before the game.

The six coaches have won a total of 12 Super Bowls—Noll 4, Flores 2, Landry 2, Seifert 2, Ditka and Stram 1 each.

Super Goodies

Seat cushions usually given to Super Bowl attendees won't be needed in the padded comfort of the Superdome. But **Sprint**, the official telecommunications provider of the NFL and Super Bowl XXXI, is handing each Super Bowl fan at the game a special duffel bag that contains a Sprint prepaid phone card among other goodies.

contributors

Phil Barber (page 98) is a former editor with the NFL's Publishing Group. He contributes to *NFL GameDay*, *The Sporting News*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and is the co-author of this year's *Football America* book.

Born in Romania, **Andrei Codrescu** (page 127) is a poet, teacher, and National Public Radio commentator. He lives in New Orleans.

Award-winning football journalist **Ray Didinger** (page 174) covered the NFL for Philadelphia newspapers for 26 years. The co-author of *Football America*, he is now a producer and writer with NFL Films.

Former all-pro guard **Jerry Kramer** (page 157) won Super Bowls I and II with the Green Bay Packers. He lives in Idaho and owns Single Source Communications in Kansas City.

Scott Ostler (page 141) is a columnist with the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Food maven **Joe Pollack** (page 130) is the former dining editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

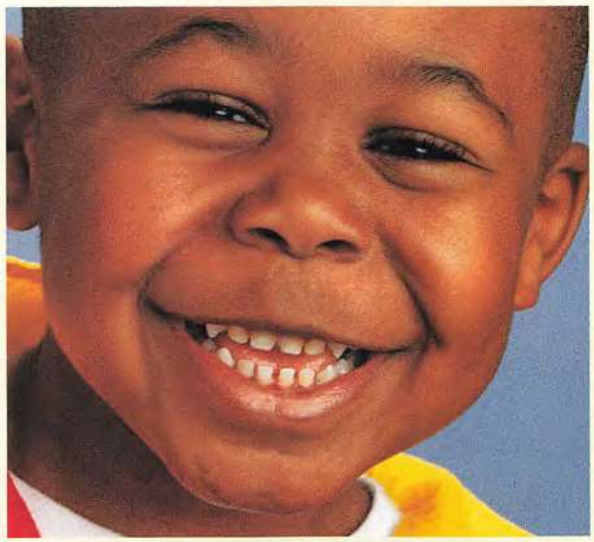
Between regular Sunday visits to Giants Stadium, journalist **Andy Rooney** (page 171) is a commentator on *60 Minutes*.

The New Orleans Dictionary

Where y'at? (wear-YAT), ***salutation*:**

1. The official greeting in New Orleans. **2.** So pervasive that some locals are simply called "Yats." An appropriate response is "awrite!"

This year the road to the Super Bowl™ went through Nashville, Tennessee.



Andrew Thompson
Nashville, Tennessee
Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to Andrew Thompson, Grand Prize winner of the 1996 **Oscar Mayer**® Talent Search. You'll see Andrew and the five other top winners of this year's search during our Halftime Show TV commercial. For Andrew, the trip to the **Super Bowl**™ started with an audition in Nashville. In all, we auditioned 65,000 children in 41 states. Special thanks to all of our retail customers who hosted those auditions and made a dream come true for Talent Search winners everywhere! We can't wait to hit the road for the 1997 **Oscar Mayer**® Talent Search. See you there!

Oscar Mayer®

Minda Smiley
Cannonsburg, PA
Semi Finalist

Michael Toward
Cannonsburg, PA
Semi Finalist

Scott Braley
Littleton, CO
Semi Finalist

Ben Creed
Santa Rosa, CA
Semi Finalist

Brittany Rangel
Houston, TX
Semi Finalist

Congratulations to the twenty National Winners Scott Braley, Littleton, CO•Chryse Young-Chahyaddie, Mesa, AZ•Symin Charpentier, Holyoke,MA •Charity Cook, Sioux Falls, SD•Ben Creed, Santa Rosa, CA•Charity Davis, Champaign, IL•Jacob Graham, Gladstone, OR•Lauren Hernandez, South Bend, IN•Elizabeth Kellicut, Memphis, TN•Jessica Kellicut, Memphis, TN•Lindsey Kim, Alpharetta, GA•Christopher Lawton, Bronx, NY•Teddy Nelson, Onalaska, WI•Evan Norris, Orange, CA•Mallory Pettee, Holland, OH•Brittany Rangel, Houston, TX•Matthew Roth, Hammond, LA•Joshua Sickmeyer, Sioux Falls, SD•Minda Smiley, Cannonsburg, PA•Holley Smith, Forest, VA•Andrew Thompson, Nashville, TN•Michael Toward, Cannonsburg, PA•Andrew Vulliet, Seattle, WA

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OM96-1185 M

RINGTHEBELL.org Archive.org

today super at the bowl

super sounds

The **Oscar Mayer Super Bowl halftime show** is the icing on an already-delicious cake. This year, fans in the Louisiana Superdome and at home will enjoy a spectacular musical extravaganza, showcasing the best in blues, soul, rock, and rhythm and blues.

The fabulous **Blues Brothers** (top)—John Goodman, Dan Aykroyd, and James Belushi—stride to the stage to perform several of their top hits.

Also on the bill is The Godfather of Soul, the Hardest Working Man in Show Business... it must be the incomparable **James Brown** (center).

Veteran southern rockers **ZZ Topp** (you know, the guys with the cool beards) round out the tableau of top-notch talent that will perform in concert on the floor of the Superdome.

Sponsored by Oscar Mayer, the halftime show original concept was developed by Radio City Productions. The show is being produced by Select Productions International, and was developed in association with House of Blues Entertainment.

Today's halftime show benefits the House of Blues Foundation, created to increase racial harmony through education, and to help bring music and art back to public schools.

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

DANNY CLINCH

halftime credits

Select Productions Intl.

Producer
Dennis Despie
Co-Producer
Monty House
Television Director
Louis Horvitz
Creative Director
Tom Bahler
Staging Director/ Choreographer
Judy Chabola
Production Designer
Clare Graham
Lighting Director/Designer
John Osborne
Technical Director
Dave Richanbach
Costume Designer
Garland Riddle
Production Manager
Christopher Laue
Production Supervisor
Coy Lea North
Celebrity Talent Supervisor
Heather Boyd
Company Manager
Nancy M. Kwon
Logistics Coordinator
Harvey Louie
Production Coordinators
Darrell Clark, Brian Despie
Buddy Gilbert, Kim Cushman
Matthew Joscelyne, Gail Morgan
Jill St. Cyr, Linnae Parsons
Associate Choreographer
Doug Jack
Assistant Choreographer
Cynthia Birch
Associate Art Director
Dave Offield
Staging Supervisor
Joe Zenas
Wardrobe Coordinators
Karyl Gonzalez
Cheryl Milo
Audio Consultant
Larry Estrin
Director of Business Affairs
Charles Redmon, Jr.
Talent Coordination
American All-Star, Inc.

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Executive Producer
Arlen Kantarian
Talent Executives
Ed Micone, Jim Glancy
Creative Development
Jeffrey Ernstoff
Vice President, Events
Michael T. Fiur

In association with
House of Blues Entertainment
Isaac Tigrett, Alan Callan, Kevin Morrow

MICHAEL MOORE

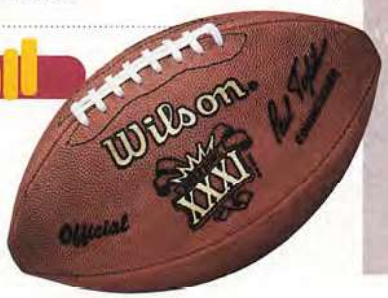
Super Trophies

The Super Bowl champion will take home the Vince Lombardi Trophy (left). The most valuable player will receive the Pete Rozelle Trophy (right). Both pieces were created for the NFL by Tiffany & Co.

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP (2)

have a ball

Since 1954, Wilson has supplied the official ball of the National Football League. In today's game, they'll use this suitably inscribed ball.



Super Bowl XXXI

An In-Depth Look at the AFC and NFC Champions

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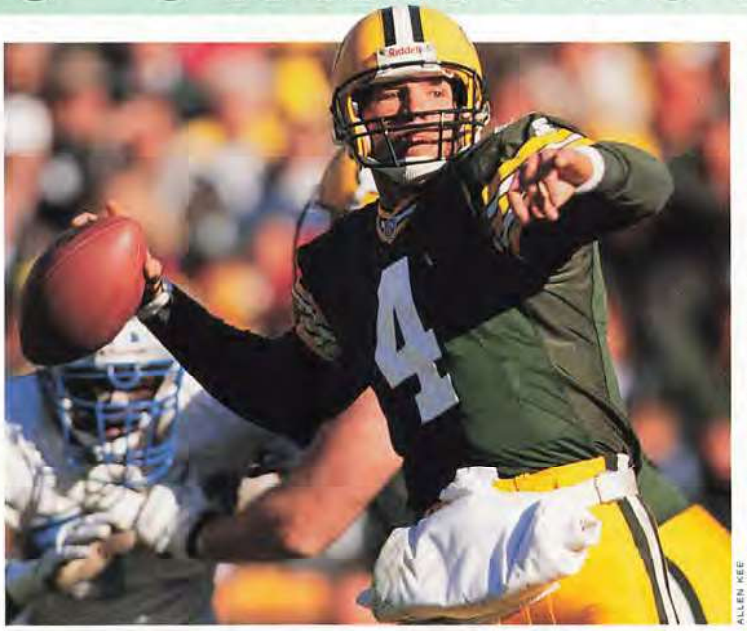
green bay packers



MVP x 2: *In two seasons as the consensus MVP, Brett Favre has passed for 77 touchdowns, 26 interceptions, and 8,312 yards.*

Titletown, USA, found a place on the American map in days of the Great Depression. Curly Lambeau's Green Bay teams won NFL championships in 1929, 1930, and 1931, then made it five titles in 11 years with championships in 1936 and 1939. There would be one more king-of-the-hill achievement in the war years (1944), but then there was mostly futility for 15 years.

The cartographer who rediscovered Titletown, USA, was Vince Lombardi. In 1959, he took over a team that had won one game the year before. Two years later, the Packers were NFL champions. From 1961 through 1967, Lombardi's legendary teams won five NFL championships. Appropriately, Green Bay ruled the first two Super Bowls.

However, for the next 28 seasons, the road to Titletown ran anywhere but through Green Bay. The Packers had only five winning seasons from 1968-1991.

Enter Ron Wolf, Mike Holmgren, and Brett Favre. In 1992, their first year on the tundra (Wolf as general manager, Holmgren as coach, and Favre as kid quarterback), the Packers were 9-7. They replicated that record the next two seasons, then went 11-5 in 1995 (losing to Dallas in the NFC title game) and 13-3 this season. In this season's playoffs, the Packers trampled San Francisco and Carolina by a combined 65-27, and cheeseheads were the fashion rage. Titletown, USA, was back on the map, and the only NFL team literally owned by the community in which it plays was soaring again.

The 1996 Packers are a remarkable collection of talent, a tribute to the architect (Wolf), the contractor (Holmgren), and devil-may-care interior designer (Favre).

Wolf, perhaps pro football's savviest talent scout, began the Packers' re-ascendency in 1992 when he obtained Favre from Atlanta, where Favre had played only briefly as a rookie out of Southern Mississippi in 1991.

If there is a will there is a way, and if there is a need Wolf fills it. When the Packers lost their best receiver, Robert Brooks, with a damaged knee halfway through the 1996 season (and while their second-best receiver, Antonio Freeman, was out for a time with a broken arm), Wolf plucked talented but troubled Andre Rison off the waiver list from Jacksonville. Together with the physically revitalized Freeman, Rison gave Favre two outstanding deep targets.

Favre is the Packers' offensive linchpin. The man who fills the same role on defense was signed as a free agent by Wolf in 1993. After eight standout seasons in Philadelphia, defensive end Reggie White stopped by Green Bay to finish out his Hall of Fame career.

Holmgren, who was the offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers' Super Bowl XXIV champions, is a master motivator and strategist. The West Coast offense is alive and very well in Green Bay under his stewardship.

The Packers averaged 28.5 points per game in the regular season, leading the league with 456 points. But

scouting report

Season at a glance:

GREEN BAY

15-3

W 34-3 at Tampa Bay
W 39-13 Philadelphia
W 42-10 San Diego
L 30-21 at Minnesota
W 31-10 at Seattle
W 37-6 at Chicago
W 23-20 (OT) San Francisco
W 13-7 Tampa Bay
W 28-18 Detroit
L 27-20 at Kansas City
L 21-6 at Dallas
W 24-9 at St. Louis
W 28-17 Chicago
W 41-6 Denver
W 31-3 at Detroit
W 38-10 Minnesota

PLAYOFFS

W 35-14 San Francisco
W 30-13 Carolina

PACKERS

lest you think this team is all meat and no potatoes, consider that it also led the league by allowing only 210 points (an average of 13.1). The last team to lead the NFL in points scored and to allow the fewest points was the 1972 Dolphins, who won all 17 of their games.

Favre, the Mississippi country boy who plays like Superman, is the player who puts the go-go in the Packers' take-no-prisoners offense.

Favre has been the consensus NFL most valuable player the past two seasons. In 1995, Favre had 38 touchdown passes and only 13 interceptions. Can't do better than that, huh? In 1996, the numbers were 39 and 13. Favre's only negative is a tendency to force the ball early in big games. That is small hope for the Patriots, however, because when Favre settles down, he's a one-man twister, a young man (27) driven to win.

In Favre's target practice, the bull's eyes belong to Freeman, Rison, tight ends Mark Chmura and Keith Jackson, and running backs Edgar Bennett and Dorsey Levens. Look for Favre to spread the success around.

Look also for Favre to hand the ball often to Bennett and Levens. Over their last six games, the Packers averaged 152 yards rushing. The more they are able to run, the less pressure there will be on Favre.

The pressure in Super Bowl XXXI is likely to come on the other side of the ball. White is the NFL's all-time leader in sacks with 165½ in 12 seasons, and he led Green Bay again in 1996 with 8½.

White is the Darth Vader of the defense, but he is only the primary force in the Packers' star wars. Pay particular attention to one of the NFL's best secondaries—Craig Newsome and Doug Evans at the corners and LeRoy Butler and Eugene Robinson at safeties.

RON VESELY

Steady as He Goes: *Mike Holmgren has had five winning seasons in Green Bay, compiling a 57-32 record as coach.*

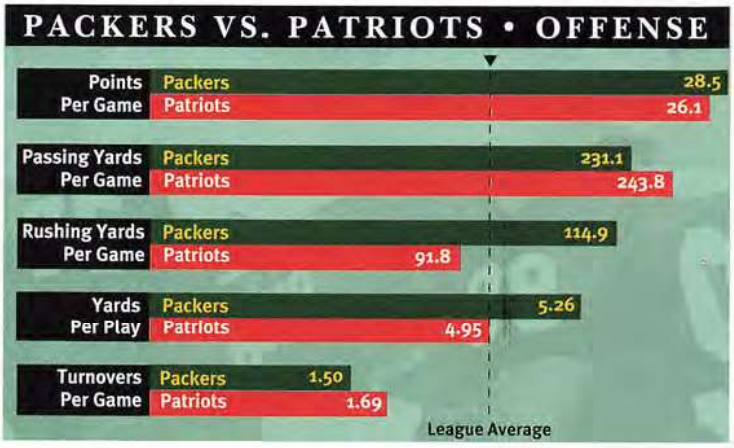
Robinson, a veteran of 11 seasons in Seattle, was a summer '96 acquisition by Wolf. With the defensive puzzle completed, the Packers allowed more than 20 points only three times (their three losses) and held 10 opponents to 14 or fewer points.

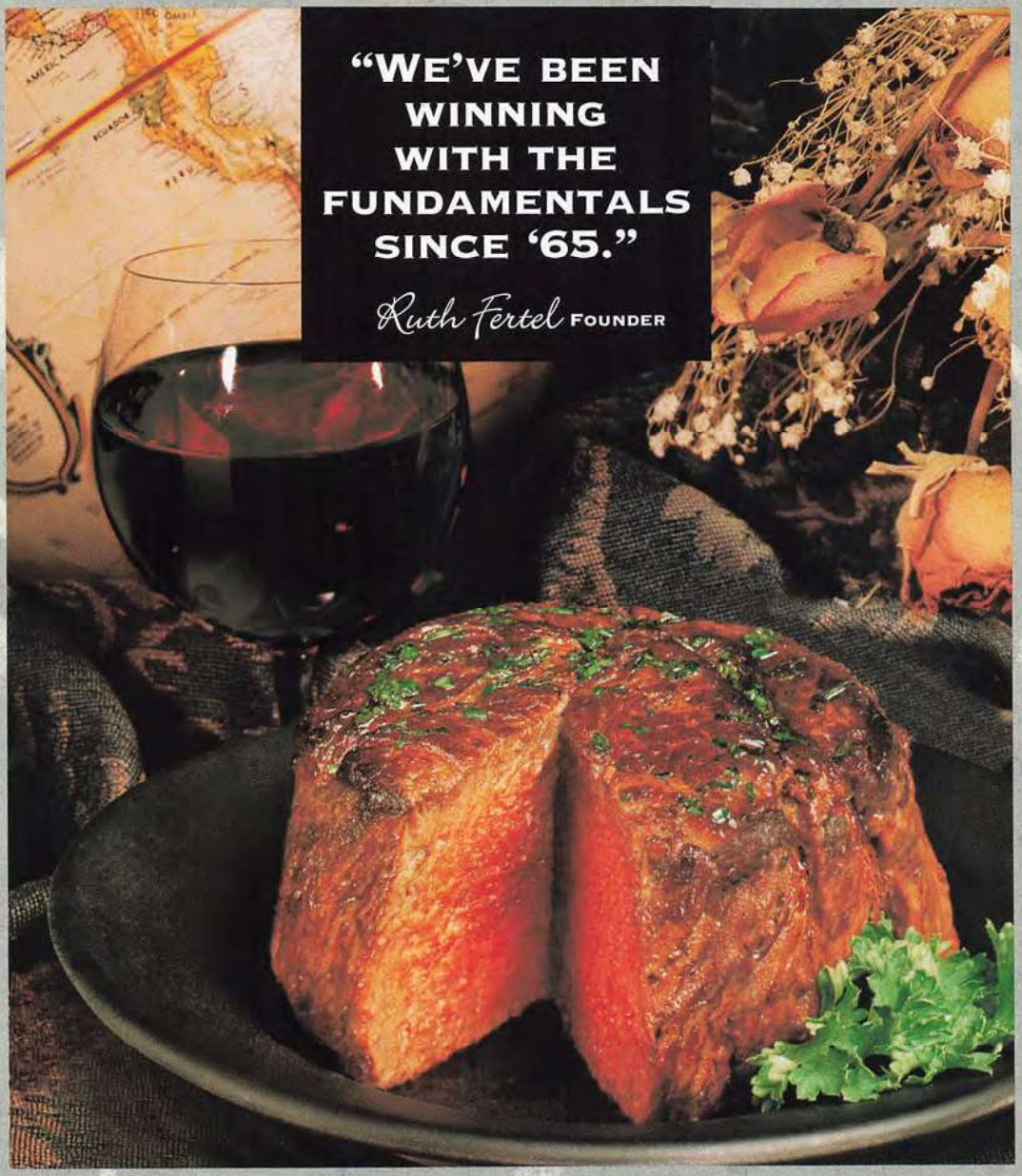
Another summer-sale addition was Desmond Howard, who led the NFL in punt returns and has totaled more than 1,000 punt-return yards and 4 touchdowns in 18 games.

The NFC has won the last 12 Super Bowls by an average margin of 21.4 points, and the Packers are heavy favorites to make it 13. The last time the AFC won a Super Bowl (the Raiders in XVIII), Ronald Reagan was readying his run for re-election to the presidency.

If you are looking for a comparative barometer, consider a couple of '96 Denver games. In week 12, the Broncos beat the Patriots 34-8; in week 15, the Packers beat Denver 41-6.

No one wearing a cheesehead is suggesting a 61-point victory today. But they are swaggering and talking about Titletown again. And who can blame them?





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new england Patriots

New England is a land of higher learning, and football fans of the region don't need to be educated about what happened the last time their team went to New Orleans in January. The Patriots wound up with Super Bowl Shuffle dance steps plastered to their backs as they were pummeled 46-10 by the Bears in game XX.

But New Englanders don't care about any of that. This is a new breed of Patriotism, they say, with a new quarterback, a new coach, and new management.

The quarterback is 24-year-old Drew Bledsoe, who is only the fourth player in NFL history to record multiple 4,000-yard passing seasons. And he is signed through 2001, so the offense appears set for the millenium.

The coach is Bill Parcells, who is seeking to become the first man to lead two different teams to Super Bowl triumphs. (He coached the New York Giants in Super Bowls XXI and XXV.)

And the owner is Robert Kraft, the paper and packaging mogul and honest-to-goodness football fan who purchased the Patriots in January, 1994. Kraft, a New England season-ticket holder since 1972, made an immediate impression on the local fans. A month after he bought the franchise, fans ordered 5,958 season tickets in the first day of availability. The previous record had been fewer than 1,000.

In the three years since, Kraft has done nothing to alter that allegiance. The Brookline, Massachusetts, native says all the right things and signs all the right people.

ALLEN KEE

Boston Uncommon: *Drew Bledsoe is headed for the Pro Bowl after leading the NFL in pass attempts and completions.*

In fact, the only person who isn't completely thrilled with Kraft's leadership seems to be Parcells.

The whole scenario is bringing back memories. Parcells won his last championship in January, 1991, and on May 15 of that year he announced he was leaving the Giants. This time, Boston fans feared he'd hand in his resignation *before* the game.

Parcells is rumored to have one foot on the next shuttle flight to New York. Like most of the giants of his profession, he seeks full control of personnel decisions. The Patriots aren't willing to give it to him, but the Jets might be.

If he goes, or even if he doesn't, this season might be remembered as his crowning achievement. Parcells, part football coach and part psychological counselor, has made his reputation extracting more from lesser talent, and the Patriots of 1996 are virtual unknowns.

Can you tell us a little about Ferric Collons, Lawyer Milloy, Otis Smith, and Willie Clay? They weren't Franklin Roosevelt's vice presidents, or the original Four Tops. They're among the 11 players who start for New England's defense—a defense, by the way, that hasn't allowed a touchdown in 10 quarters entering the big game.

"None of that bothers me or the rest of us, that nobody knows us," says defensive end Mike Jones. "I'm not playing for publicity, and I don't think any of us are."

The Patriots don't give much weight to reputation. As Parcells says, "All the racetracks I've been to never pay off at the start of the race. If they did, I'd be quite wealthy."

Some teams—the Packers

Season at a glance:

NEW ENGLAND

13-5

L 24-10 at Miami
L 17-10 at Buffalo
W 31-0 Arizona
W 28-25 (OT) Jacksonville
W 46-38 at Baltimore
L 27-22 Washington
W 27-9 at Indianapolis
W 28-25 Buffalo
W 42-23 Miami
W 31-27 at New York Jets
L 34-8 Denver
W 27-13 Indianapolis
W 45-7 at San Diego
W 34-10 New York Jets
L 12-6 at Dallas
W 23-22 at New York Giants

PLAYOFFS
W 28-3 Pittsburgh
W 20-6 Jacksonville

PATRIOTS

JIM TURNER

Tuna Roll: *Bill Parcells is trying to become the first NFL coach to take two different teams to Super Bowl victory.*

being a perfect example—race to the Super Bowl like a flash flood. They generate headlines, elicit dire warnings, earn evocative nicknames.

The New England Patriots have been more like a slow leak. People barely took notice of the Nor'Easters until January 12, when the AFC competition looked around and found itself in six feet of standing water.

Even the most diligent of NFL fans could be forgiven for asking: How did this happen?

You can start with cohesiveness and resilience. The cohesion began in 1996 training camp, when the Patriots initiated a unique tradition. After every practice, New England's three captains—tackle Bruce Armstrong, defensive end Willie McGinest, and Jones—would address the team when the coaches had left for the locker room. Often they simply rehashed assignments; sometimes it was spicier, as when Armstrong brandished a baseball bat to exhort his teammates as they prepared for their AFC playoff game with Pittsburgh.

The resilience was in evidence after tough losses. When the Patriots dropped their opening games to Miami and Buffalo, they rebounded to win three straight; when they lost a close one to Washington, they came back to beat their four AFC East rivals in consecutive weeks; and after a humiliating 34-8 loss to Denver, the defense stiffened. Since then, New England's opponents have managed a meager 10.4 points per game.

But now the Patriots face the Packers, the only NFL team that scored more points than they in 1996 and a team with superstars such as Brett Favre and Reggie White.

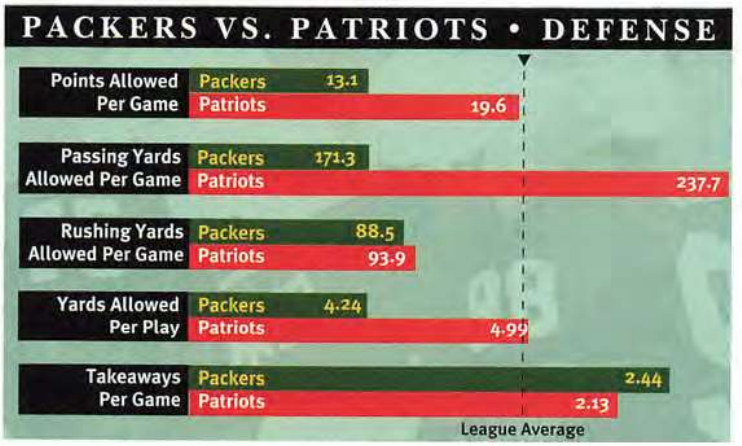
The Patriots are big underdogs, and they'll need every page from Parcells's motivational pamphlet if they are to beat Green Bay. They'll need his gameday insights, too.

Parcells is known as a coach who sermonizes about fundamentals and clock management. But fellow coaches know him as an informed gambler. The Patriots ran halfback-option passes, flea-flickers, and reverses in 1996, and they led the league with 34 plays from scrimmage on fourth down.

So expect the unexpected when you watch them in the Superdome, and don't be quick to concede another victory to the NFC.

"I was watching the Chicago Bulls the other day," New England running back Curtis Martin said after a midseason victory. "I just watched how poised and patient they were, even when they were down sixteen points. They knew they were going to come back. Any team that plans on going somewhere must have that type of confidence."

The Patriots have that type of confidence. Today we'll find out if "going somewhere" includes winning the Super Bowl.



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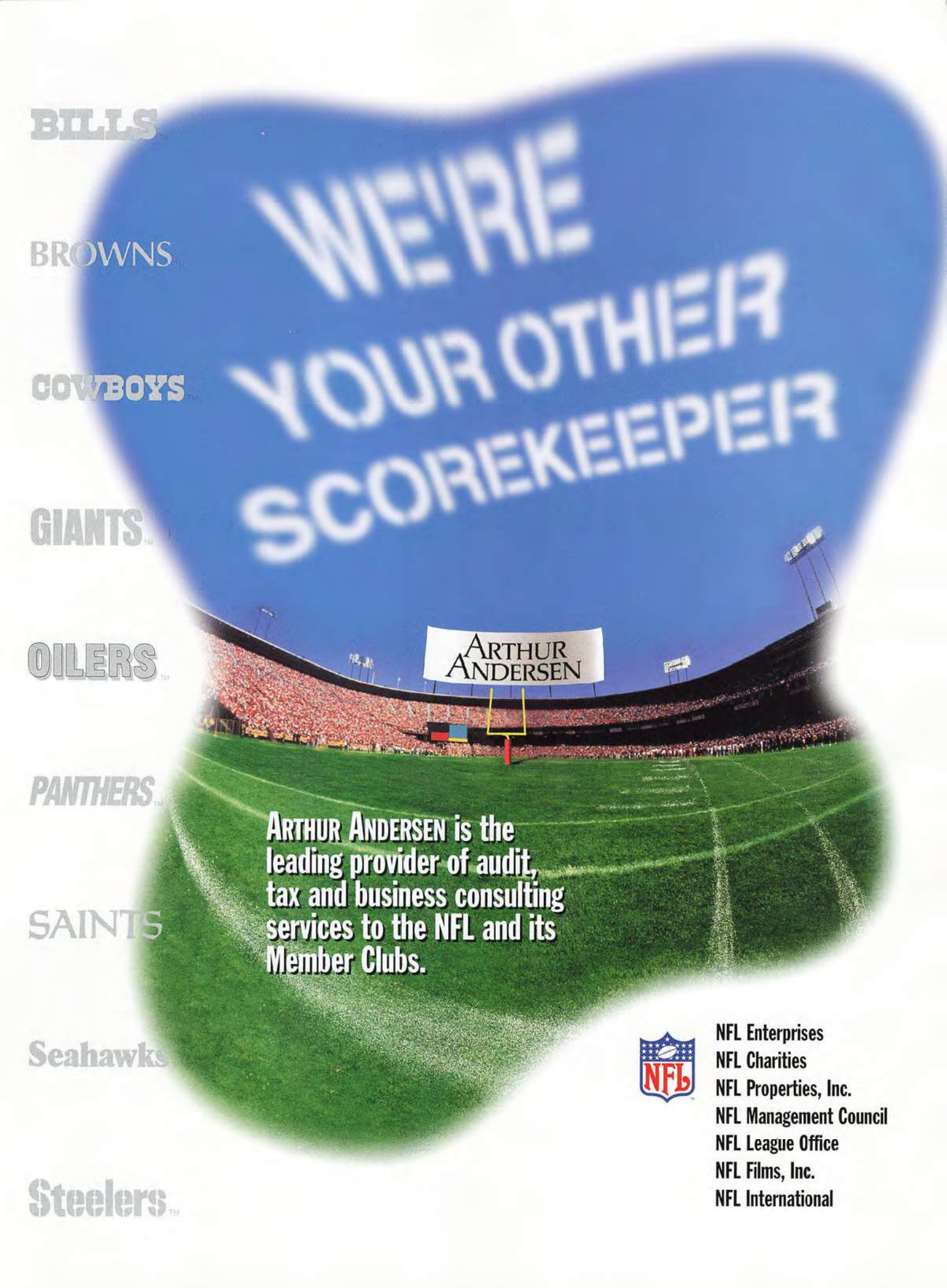
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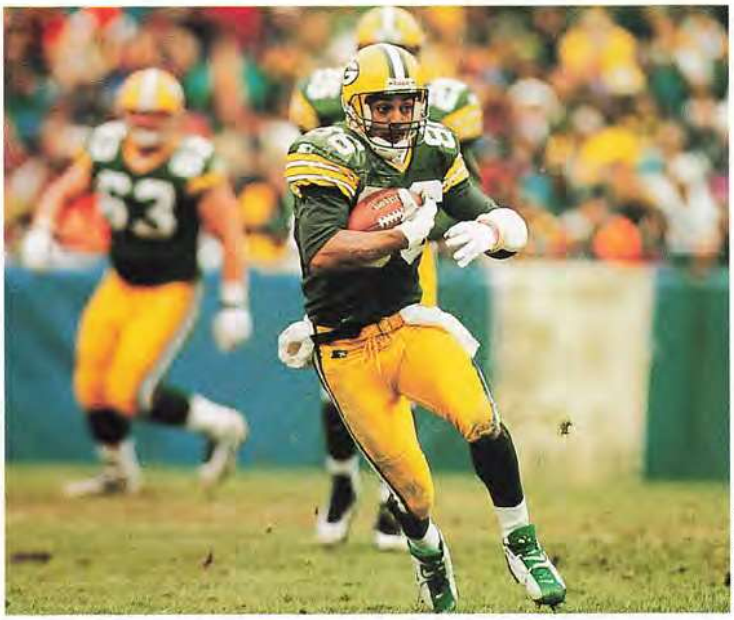
green bay packers

The Packers had the league's leading defense in 1996, the most dangerous punt returner in the game, and a rushing offense that ranked fourth in the NFC. But passing is what they do best.

No one will need to inform the Patriots, who spent long hours studying game films that confirmed their worst fears. Even after the Packers lost number-one receiver Robert Brooks for the season to a knee injury in week 7 and starter Antonio Freeman for four games with a broken forearm, quarterback Brett Favre *still* led the league in touchdown passes (39) for the second year in a row.

It is no accident that Favre has been the NFL's most valuable player each of the last two seasons. He is fearless with a football in his hands. He will scramble to buy time, sling cross-field passes, and throw darts through the tiniest cracks in coverage. There is no situation in which the Packers' quarterback is not comfortable passing the ball.

"He is very creative," says head coach Mike Holmgren, a less flamboyant sort, "and at times his creativity challenges me."



MICHAEL CONROY

Casting Call: *Antonio Freeman's forearm healed nicely while he caught 25 passes for 452 yards in the season's final four games.*

Favre has grown adept at finding every receiver in a Green Bay uniform. Eight different Packers had more than 20 receptions. Ten caught at least 1 touchdown pass. Favre's statistics are similar to 1995—he had 38 touchdown passes then—only the names of the receivers have changed.

Wide receivers Brooks, Mark Ingram, and Anthony Morgan are missing. Freeman, Andre Rison, and Don Beebe are in their places. Tight end Keith Jackson, an early season holdout in 1995, came to play this year, and had 10 touchdowns among his 40 receptions. Which is not to overlook running back Dorsey Levens, who had 5 receptions for 117 yards in the NFC Championship Game.

The Packers are dangerous from anywhere—6 of their scoring passes covered 50 or more yards—but what gives defenses fits is their unpredictability near the goal line. Opponents that bunch up to stop the run get burned by air—17 of Favre's scoring passes came from inside the 10-yard line.

If the strong-armed passer has a failing, it is when he misreads a defense and tries to fire spirals through too-small holes.

But more times than not, this guy hits what he aims for.

receiving

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Freeman	56	933	16.7	51t	9
Jackson	40	505	12.6	51t	10
Beebe	39	699	17.9	80t	4
Levens	31	226	7.3	49	5
Bennett	31	176	5.7	25t	1
Chmura	28	370	13.2	29	0
Henderson	27	203	7.5	27	1
Brooks	23	344	15.0	38	4
Mickens	10	161	8.9	19	2
Rison	13	135	10.4	22t	1
Howard	13	95	7.3	12	0
Mayes	6	46	7.7	12	2
Thomason	3	45	15.0	24	0

t-touchdown

passing

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Favre	543	325	59.9	3,899	7.18	39	7.2	13	2.4	80t	40/241	95.8
McMahon	4	3	75.0	39	9.75	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	0/0	105.2
Hentrich	1	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6

t-touchdown

scouting report

key facts:

- Brett Favre has passed for 147 touchdowns in five years with Green Bay. The Packers' record is 152, set by Hall of Fame quarterback Barr Starr—in 16 seasons.
- Favre never has missed a game because of injury, starting 77 consecutive regular-season contests.
- Stop the Packers on third down and you have a chance to beat them. Green Bay converted just 25 percent of its third downs in its three losses, compared to 48.6 percent in its 13 victories.

new england Patriots

scouting report

When the New England Patriots used the first pick of the 1993 draft on quarterback Drew Bledsoe of Washington State, the idea was that he'd get them to the Super Bowl sooner or later.

Turned out it was sooner—just four years as a matter of fact—and here come the Patriots, riding the strong right arm of their 6-foot-5-inch passer.

Bledsoe brings impressive credentials, with his 4,086 passing yards in 1996 that propelled the highest-scoring offense in the AFC. It was the second time he surpassed 4,000 yards. He threw 27 touchdown passes and led the NFL in attempts (623) and completions (373). And when he completed 55 percent of his passes in a game, the Patriots won 11 times. When he didn't, they lost.

Bledsoe will move the ball around among his receivers (eight caught 20 or more passes in the regular season), but most of his passes will go to rookie wide receiver Terry Glenn, the Patriots' number-one draft choice in 1996, or tight end Ben Coates. Their speed will benefit from the AstroTurf of the Superdome.

Glenn's 90 catches during the regular season set an NFL rookie record, despite the fact that he missed one game. And his 1,132 yards rank third on the all-time list of rookie receivers. He'll be counted on to put most of the speed and long-gain threat into New England's passing game.

Coates also will add plenty of speed, despite his size—6-5 and 245 pounds. Coates, who had 9 touchdown catches in the regular season, will be the receiver Bledsoe uses to open up the game for his deep throws, mainly to Glenn. Bledsoe will pop Coates straight upfield to help break the Packers' zone coverage and also use him on quick passes if the Packers start blitzing—a distinct possibility because of Bledsoe's inability to scramble effectively. Bledsoe's penchant for throwing the ball up for grabs when under heavy pressure is another cause of worry.

It will be up to the blocking of tackles Bruce Armstrong and Max Lane, guards William Roberts and Todd Rucci, and center Dave Wohlabaugh to keep pressure off Bledsoe.

The quarterback also will use running back Curtis Martin and fullback-tight end Keith Byars on quick passes to keep Green Bay's defense from coming too often on all-out blitzes. Additional targets include Shawn Jefferson and David Meggett.

key facts:

- Drew Bledsoe has won 21 of 29 career regular-season starts when sacked once or less.
- As goes Bledsoe, so go the Patriots. He had a 99.7 passer rating in New England's 11 victories—and a 53.7 rating in the club's five losses.
- New England had the league's third-best pass offense (243.8 yards per game).
- Terry Glenn, who set an NFL rookie record with 90 receptions in 1996, also drew 8 interference penalties for 108 yards.

ALLEN KEE

Runaway Rookie: *Wide receiver Terry Glenn finished tied for second in the AFC with an NFL rookie-record 90 receptions.*

receiving

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Glenn	90	1,132	12.6	37t	6
Coates	62	682	11.0	84t	9
Jefferson	50	771	15.4	42	4
Martin	46	333	7.2	41	3
Meggett	33	292	8.8	26	0
Gash	33	276	8.4	28	2
Byars	27	249	9.2	27	2
T. Brown	21	222	10.6	38	0
Graham	5	64	12.8	23	0
W. Moore	3	37	12.3	16	0
Burke	1	19	19.0	19	0
Grier	1	8	8.0	8	0
Jells	1	5	5.0	5	0
Bartrum	1	1	1.0	1t	1

t-touchdown

passing

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Bledsoe	623	373	59.9	4,086	6.56	27	4.3	15	2.4	84t	30/190	83.7
Zolak	1	1	100.0	5	5.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0/0	87.5
Tupa	2	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6
Grier	1	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6
Meggett	1	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6

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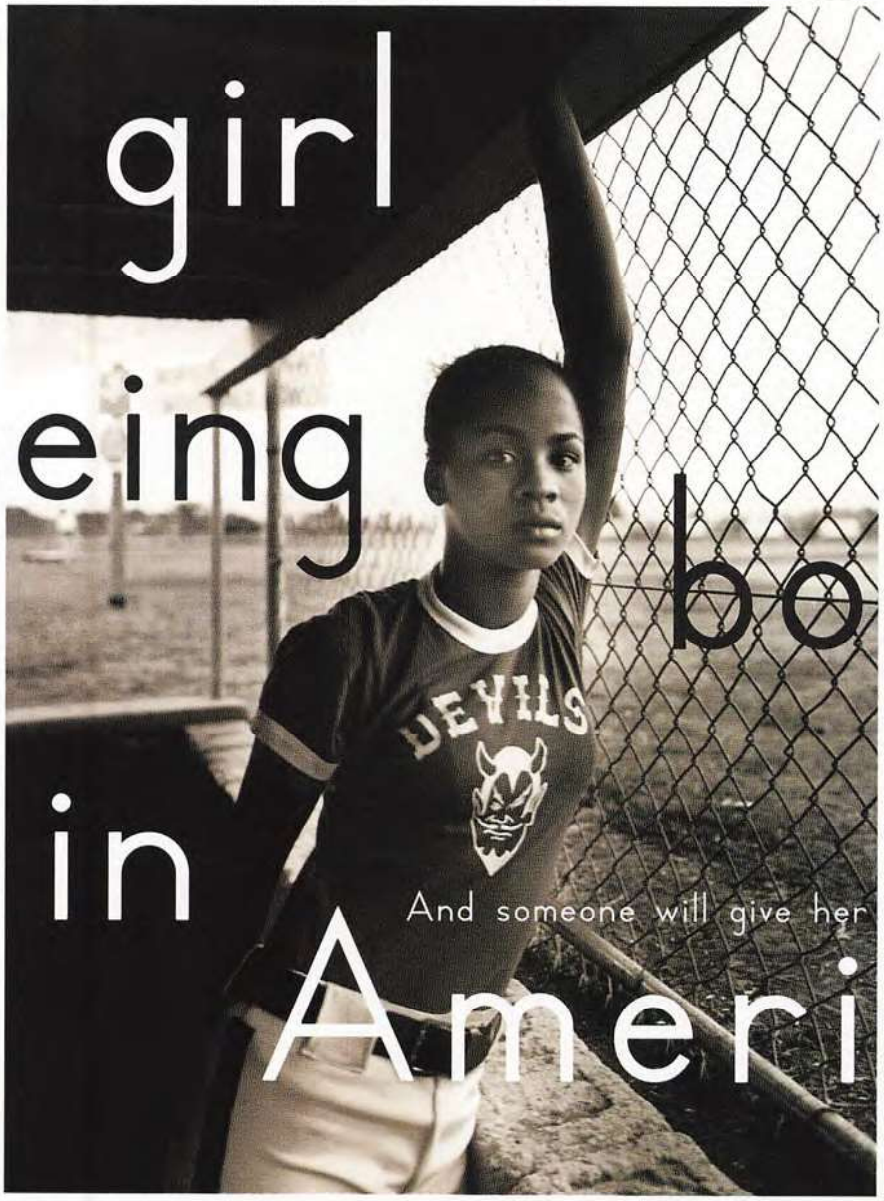

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green bay packers

After 13 weeks of the 1996 NFL season, the scouting report for defending the Green Bay rushing offense would have been short and sweet: Skip the run, play the pass.

At that point, the Packers' rushing attack was the polar opposite of their powerful passing offense. Green Bay ranked seventeenth in the NFL in rushing, was averaging only 105.4 yards per game, and had only 3 rushing touchdowns.

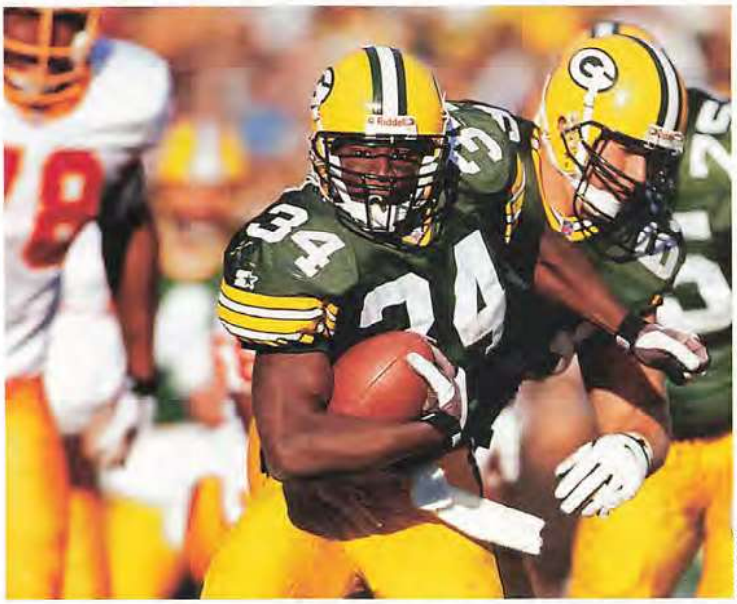
But like a marathon runner peaking for a big effort, the Packers must have been saving their strength. In their last six games—the final four games of the regular season and two playoff victories—Green Bay averaged 152 rushing yards per game while scoring 9 times on the ground.

Part of the reason for the rushing renewal was a series of convincing victories that allowed clock-consuming running plays. But an inspired offensive line, solid play from blocking back William Henderson, and a new commitment to simplify the rushing game are the main reasons for the team's improvement.

rushing

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Bennett	222	899	4.0	23	2
Levens	121	566	4.7	24	5
Favre	49	136	2.8	23	2
Henderson	39	130	3.3	14	0
Jervey	26	106	4.1	12	0
Brooks	4	2	0.5	6	0
McMahon	4	-1	-0.2	2	0

The ground attack is led by Edgar Bennett and Dorsey Levens, the Packers' double-threat running back. Bennett is a power runner, a straight-ahead type who will get most of the calls between the tackles. His 899 yards ranked seventh in the NFC. Levens is a quicker player who did more of the outside running for Green Bay, gaining 566 yards. He could have a lot of success on the Superdome's fast track.



RON VESELY

Boom-Boom Bennett: *Green Bay's leading rusher, Edgar Bennett, is especially effective when running up the middle.*

Neither runner has breakaway speed; Levens's 35-yard run two weeks ago was the team's longest of the season. And of the team's 9 rushing touchdowns (tied for nineteenth in the NFL), the longest was 11 yards.

The Packers' offensive line—left to right: Bruce Wilkerson, Aaron Taylor, Frank Winters, Adam Timmerman, and Earl Dotson—averages more than 300 pounds, and is a mix of veterans and young players. Wilkerson brought 10 years of experience when he took over for rookie John Michels in week 17. Third-year guard Aaron Taylor, a good run blocker, improved all season long after offseason knee problems. Center Winters, another 10-year veteran, relies on solid technique. Timmerman is in his first year as a starter, while Dotson has solidified the right tackle position in his fourth season.

Not especially quick, the Packers usually employ straight-ahead blocking in front of Bennett. Sweeps aren't used as often as they were by the Packers of old, but Levens, behind Henderson and tight end Mark Chmura, has been effective.

When tight end Keith Jackson comes in on short-yardage situations, or when he and Chmura end up on the same side of the ball, look for a pass. From a three-receiver, single-set-back lineup, the Packers often go with the run.

scouting report

key facts:

- Just 9 of Green Bay's 56 touchdowns (16.1 percent) came on the ground, the NFL's lowest percentage.
- Green Bay's average of 114.8 rushing yards per game was its best since 1987.
- Brett Favre converted all eight of his runs on third-and-one during the regular season, and Dorsey Levens was 10 for 11. Favre also went 2 for 2 in the NFC title game.
- Edgar Bennett is the first Packers running back since John Brockington in 1973-74 with back-to-back 800-yard seasons.

new england Patriots

scouting report

When Bill Parcells was coaching the New York Giants from 1983-1990, he used a powerful and conservative ground attack to win Super Bowls XXI and XXV.

However, Parcells's philosophy has changed somewhat as New England's head coach, mostly due to the presence of strong-armed quarterback Drew Bledsoe.

In 1996, the Patriots posted an 11-5 record and won the AFC East, but the running game accounted for only 27 percent of the team's total offense.

New England finished twenty-sixth in rushing offense in the NFL, averaging 91.8 yards per game. The Patriots averaged 3.4 yards per carry to rank twenty-fifth in the league.

Green Bay boasts the NFL's best overall defense and finished fourth against the run. New England must be able to run the ball against the Packers to keep them from blitzing Bledsoe.

The biggest bright spot in the Patriots' running game is Curtis Martin, a third-round draft choice two years ago from Pittsburgh. In 1995, Martin was the only rookie to make the Pro Bowl after setting club records in rushing yards (1,487) and attempts (368).

In 1996, Martin tied his club record by leading the AFC with 14 rushing touchdowns and was chosen to his second consecutive Pro Bowl. The elusive runner, who has deceptive speed and great vision of the field while on the move, finished fifth in the AFC with 1,152 rushing yards. His 17 total touchdowns (he also caught 3 touchdown passes) set another club record.

If the Packers stop Martin, they'll almost completely shut down New England's rushing offense. Martin had 74 percent of the team's total carries in 1996. He also accounted for nearly 79 percent of the Patriots' total rushing yardage.

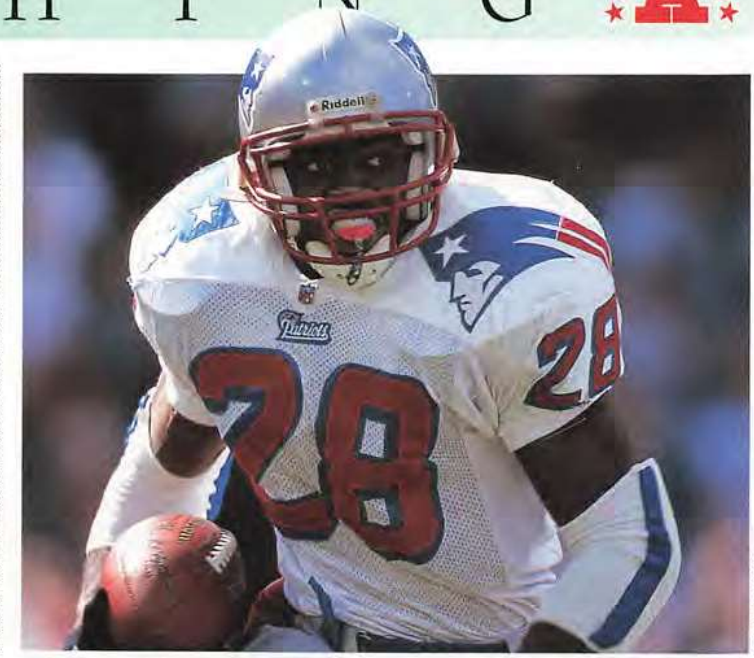
Martin's numbers this year may not be as impressive as those from his rookie season, but Green Bay shouldn't underestimate his explosiveness. He had two 100-yard games in 1996—164 against Washington in week 7 and 141 against Indianapolis in week 13.

He added a club postseason-record 166 yards in New England's 28-3 victory over Pittsburgh in an AFC Divisional Playoff Game. Against the Steelers, Martin rushed for 3 touchdowns, including a 78-yard scoring run in the second quarter.

Eight-year NFL veteran David Meggett (40 carries for 122 yards) offers the best change-up from Martin. Because Meggett, who is a good receiver, enters the backfield on third-down situations, most of his rushing yardage comes on draw plays.

Fullback Keith Byars does a good job of blocking for Martin, but he is not nearly as effective as Sam Gash, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in week 15.

The Patriots' veteran offensive line has been solid, but it often had a difficult time exploding off the ball and drive blocking larger defensive linemen.



DAVID SILVERMAN

Down the Field: *Curtis Martin piled up touchdowns (an AFC-high 17) and first downs (91, second in the AFC) in 1996.*

key facts:

- As usual, nobody goes on fourth down more than Patriots coach Bill Parcells—a league-high 34 attempts (with 19 conversions, second most in the NFL) in 1996.
- New England's running game fell from tenth in 1995 (116.6 yards per game) to twenty-sixth in 1996 (91.8).
- The Patriots are trying to join the 1970 Baltimore Colts as the only teams to win the Super Bowl after averaging fewer than 100 rushing yards per game during the regular season.

rushing

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Martin	316	1,152	3.6	57	14
Meggett	40	122	3.1	12	0
Grier	27	105	3.9	26	1
Glenn	5	42	8.4	26	0
Bledsoe	24	27	1.1	8	0
Gash	8	15	1.9	3	0
Jefferson	1	6	6.0	6	0
Byars	2	2	1.0	3	0
Zolak	4	-3	-0.7	0	0

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PASSING DEFENSE

green bay packers

You know the cliché scene in the old movie serials where the hero is trapped in a room and the walls begin moving in to crush him? That's what Drew Bledsoe may feel like facing Green Bay's top-ranked pass defense.

interceptions

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
E. Robinson	6	107	17.8	39	0
Butler	5	149	29.8	90t	1
Evans	5	102	20.4	63	1
Koonce	3	84	28.0	75t	1
Newsome	2	22	11.0	20	0
White	1	46	46.0	46	0
Prior	1	7	7.0	7	0
Dowden	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hollinquest	1	2	2.0	2	0
Simmons	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

sacks

White	8.5	Simmons	2.5
Butler	6.5	Gi. Brown	1.0
S. Dotson	5.5	McKenzie	1.0
S. Jones	5.0	Clavelle	0.5
Evans	3.0	B. Williams	0.5
Wilkins	3.0		

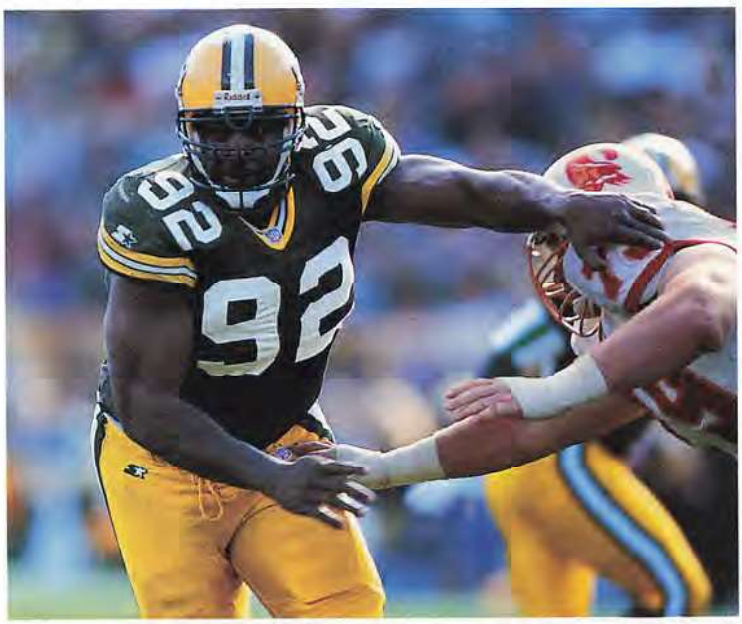
Likening the Packers' front four to a wall is an apt metaphor. The 6-foot 2-inch Gilbert Brown at nose tackle (whose weight is *very* conservatively listed at 325 pounds), consistently occupies two blockers. This allows defensive ends Reggie White (voted to his eleventh Pro Bowl) and Sean Jones, and tackles Santana Dotson and passing-down specialist Gabe Wilkins to put major pressure on quarterbacks.

Brown and Dotson need a big push up the middle against the Patriots to help flush Bledsoe out of the pocket. Expect the Packers to blitz more (perhaps using zone blitzes) against Bledsoe, who is not known for his running ability. Though the Packers generated only 37 sacks in 1996 (tied for tenth in the league), all-time NFL sack leader White could dominate if Patriots tackle Max Lane gets no help against the Packers' star. White led Green Bay with 8½ sacks.

Green Bay's linebackers do a solid job of pass coverage. Big, strong outside linebacker Wayne Simmons has the mobility to either jam the tight end at the line or drop into zone coverage. This cover ability will be critical given the importance of tight end Ben Coates in the Patriots' passing scheme. Brian Williams, the other outside linebacker, is fast enough to cover any backfield receivers. Losing middle linebacker George Koonce in the playoffs was a blow to the defense, but Ron Cox has stepped in and performed well.

The Packers' secondary is a wall in itself, featuring cornerbacks Craig Newsome and Doug Evans and safeties LeRoy Butler and Eugene Robinson. The Pro Bowl-bound Butler had 5 of the team's 26 interceptions and is a dangerous blitzer, with 6½ sacks this season. Both he and Robinson are intimidating hitters. Robinson led the team with 6 interceptions, and Evans had 5. Robinson also had 2 interceptions in the NFC Divisional Playoff Game against San Francisco.

Newsome, who was not flagged for pass interference or illegal contact all season, provides close coverage from the line of scrimmage downfield and excels at man-for-man coverage. He was tested by the Panthers in the NFC Championship Game, but intercepted a pass to add to the one he got the previous week against the 49ers. Athletic cornerback Tyrone Williams also made an interception against Carolina.



RON VESELY

Leader of the Sack: *Packers defensive end Reggie White is the NFL's all-time sack leader, with 165½ in his 12-year career.*

scouting report

key facts:

- The Packers had the NFL's top pass defense in 1996, and championships and great pass defense go together in Green Bay. The Packers led the NFL in pass defense six times in the 1960s, when they won five league titles and the first two Super Bowls.
- Green Bay raised its takeaways from 16 in 1995 to 39 in 1996 (26 interceptions and 13 fumbles).
- Safety Eugene Robinson leads active players with 48 career interceptions.

PASSING DEFENSE

scouting report

new england Patriots

It is not a defense loaded with household names (there is not a single 1997 Pro Bowl player) and for the first 11 games of the 1996 season, the Super Bowl must have been the furthest thing from their minds.

The Patriots' were giving up points and yards at an alarming rate, causing coach Bill Parcells to say, "There comes a point in the season, for every team in every year, to learn whether the team is real or a fraud."

The comments came after a 34-8 loss to Denver. Through that game, the Patriots were allowing an average of 22.6 points per game.

Following the loss to Denver something happened. What exactly it was is subject to conjecture, but there's no arguing with the results.

After that, New England won six of seven games, giving up only 73 points (10.4 per game), good enough to earn the Patriots a trip to the Super Bowl.

In those seven games, the Patriots' defense scored as many touchdowns as it gave up (4) and allowed 12 field goals. In their two playoff victories they have permitted only 3 field goals.

Despite the late-season reversal, New England still ranked twenty-eighth in pass defense and tied for nineteenth in sacks (33), a cause for concern against the Packers.

The emergence of Ty Law and Otis Smith (he scored on a fumble return in the AFC Championship Game) as the starting cornerbacks solidified a secondary that ended the regular season with 23 interceptions, tied for fourth in the NFL.

They team with safeties Willie Clay and Lawyer Milloy, a rookie.

Starting linebackers Ted Johnson, Todd Collins, and Chris Slade, plus reserves Tedy Bruschi and Dwayne Saab, are athletic players who have contributed significantly to the improvement of the pass defense. Johnson, in particular, is an emerging superstar with great instincts. Slade has helped the pass defense with his consistent man-for-man-coverage of tight ends and backs. But his biggest contribution has been as a pass rusher (7 sacks), mostly in Nickel defenses.

Sacks have been the forte of end Willie McGinest, who has begun to flash the form that made him the fourth overall pick of the 1994 draft. He has great quickness that gets him upfield and around the corner. He also can use his strength to bull-rush; if successful he might be able to force bad passes from Brett Favre.

The rest of the line likely will not supply much pressure. End Ferric Collons and tackles Mark Wheeler and Pio Sagapolutele combined for only 6 sacks. Their main responsibility will be to keep Favre in the pocket.

interceptions

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Clay	4	50	12.5	35	0
Law	3	45	15.0	38t	1
Smith	2	20	10.0	11	0
Hitchcock	2	14	7.0	14	0
Milloy	2	14	7.0	14	0
Henderson	2	7	3.5	7	0
Reynolds	2	7	3.5	7	0
McGinest	1	46	46.0	46t	1
Ray	1	43	43.0	43	0
Collins	1	7	7.0	7	0
Slade	1	2	2.0	2	0
Johnson	1	0	0.0	0	0
Sabb	1	0	0.0	0	0

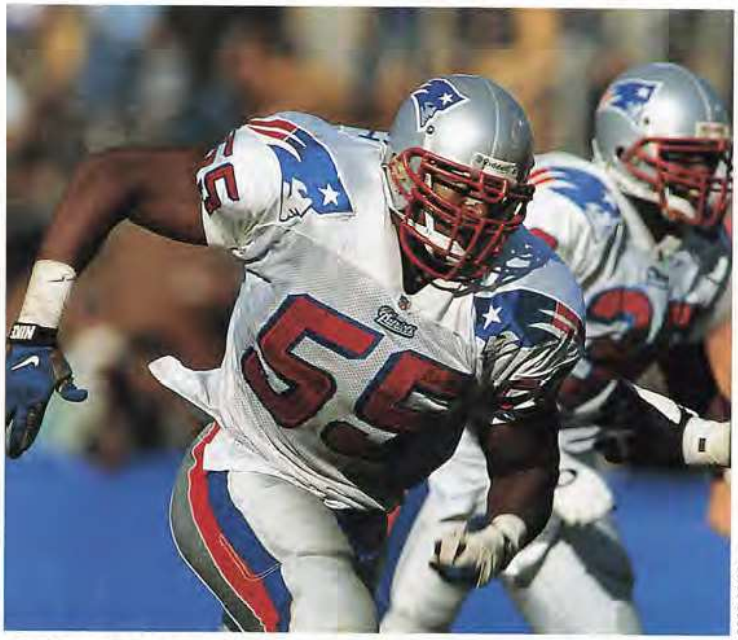
t-touchdown

sacks

McGinest	9.5	Eaton	1.0
Slade	7.0	Milloy	1.0
Bruschi	4.0	Ray	1.0
Sagapolutele	3.0	Smith	1.0
Jones	2.0	Wheeler	1.0
		Wyman	1.0
		Collons	0.5
		McGruder	0.5
		Sabb	0.5

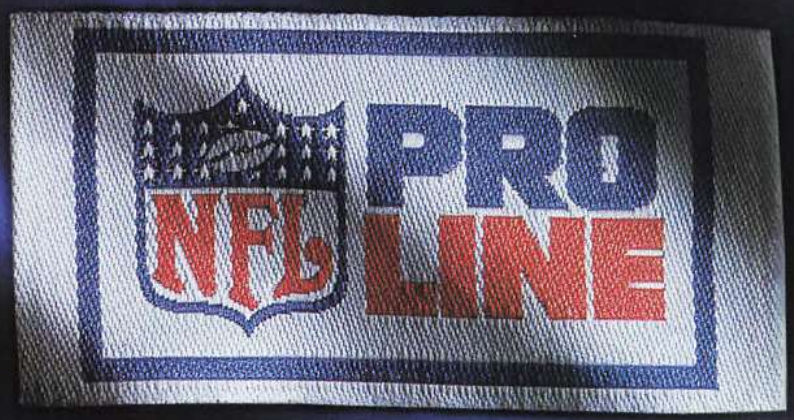
key facts:

- New England had the league's third-worst pass defense, surrendering 237.7 yards per game. A mediocre pass rush is largely to blame: The Patriots had the fourth-worst ratio of sacks to pass plays (they had 33 sacks in 629 pass plays).
- "Bend but don't break" is an apt description of the Patriots' defense. They limited opponents to 22 touchdowns in 52 trips inside New England's 20-yard line, for a 42.3 percent rate that was second best in the AFC.



GREG CRISP

McSack: *Willie McGinest has become a pass-rushing terror, posting a team-high 9½ sacks and 2 defensive touchdowns in 1996.*



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RUSHING DEFENSE

green bay packers

The Green Bay Packers allowed the fewest points (210) in the NFL. That statement alone is an indication of the strength of their defense.

Statistically, the Packers are a dominant defensive team. They ranked first in the league in both overall defense and against the pass, while finishing fourth in rushing yards allowed.

In addition, the Packers forced 39 turnovers, tied for third best in the NFL. They also ranked fifth by surrendering 3.5 yards per carry.

Who are these impenetrable men in Packers uniforms?

A big reason, literally, for the Packers success against the run is the play of defensive tackle Gilbert Brown. Kindly listed at 325 pounds (the Packers' coaching staff says Brown tips the scales at closer to 370 pounds), the fourth-year pro not only is a mammoth presence in the middle, but also is extremely quick. Brown, who constantly faces double teams, could occupy the Patriots' top run blockers (center Dave Wohlabaugh and guard Todd Rucci), thus thwarting the Patriots' running game. The other defensive tackle, Santana Dotson, is athletic but often gets stood up and loses leverage when the ball is snapped.

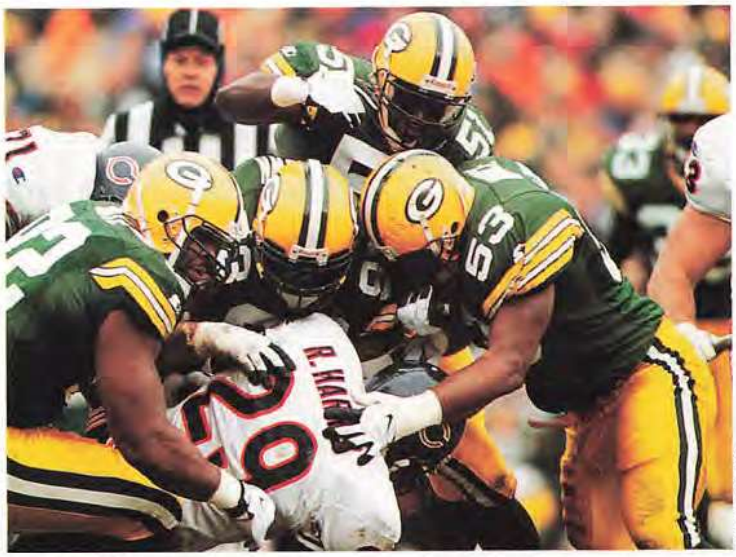
Reggie White, who has never won a championship at any level, is an extremely strong defensive end. Since he is being blocked by Max Lane, who is not a powerful run blocker, don't look for the Patriots to run toward White. Thus, right end Sean Jones should be kept busy. Jones often gets burned when he cheats and lines up wide to get a good pass rush, only to watch the opponent run to the hole he created.

The loss of middle linebacker George Koonce to a season-ending knee injury in the playoff game against San Francisco is a blow to the Packers' rushing defense. Ron Cox stepped up and played well in the NFC Championship Game, but he sometimes has trouble shedding blocks and can be inconsistent.

Outside linebackers Wayne Simmons and Brian Williams have performed extremely well. Both players are very active, and can get outside the hashmarks to contain running back Curtis Martin. Simmons is strong at the point of attack. Williams has trouble with big blockers, and he will face a good one in tight end Ben Coates.

Green Bay's safeties have played against the run as well as any duo in the NFL this season. LeRoy Butler, the defensive leader, has excellent instincts, plays smart, and rarely misses a tackle. Eugene Robinson, acquired from Seattle in June, solidified the Packers' secondary and gives it an intense hitter. Cornerbacks Doug Evans and Craig Newsome get involved in the action, but neither is a strong tackler.

Look for the Packers to use their speed and quickness on artificial turf to force the Patriots out of their running game.



MICHAEL CONROY

Green Wave: *The Packers' defense dominated opponents in 1996, allowing just 3.5 yards per carry and 13.1 points per game.*

tackles

	Solo	Assists	Total
Koonce, LB	69	28	97
Butler, S	66	22	88
B. Williams, LB	52	31	83
E. Robinson, S	56	26	82
Evans, CB	62	16	78
Newsome, CB	61	10	71
Simmons, LB	47	20	67
Gi. Brown, DT	39	13	52
White, DE	30	9	39
S. Dotson, DT	26	12	38
S. Jones, DE	29	6	35
Prior, S	21	8	29
T. Williams, CB	22	3	25
Wilkins, DE	12	7	19
Holland, DT	9	1	10

Unofficial; compiled by the Packers

scouting report

key facts:

- The Packers led the NFL in fewest yards allowed (4,156) for the first time since 1967—the year of their last title.
- Green Bay's defense surrendered only 19 touchdowns, the NFL's lowest total ever in a 16-game season.
- The Packers' defense allowed just 74 rushing first downs, the fewest they have permitted in a 16-game season.
- The Packers' defense limited opponents to just 32 trips inside Green Bay's 20-yard line, by far the NFL's best.

RUSHING DEFENSE

scouting report

key facts:

- New England's rushing defense improved from twenty-second in the league in 1995 (117.4 yards allowed per game) to sixth in 1996 (93.9 yards allowed per game).
- The Patriots are trying to become only the third team to win a Super Bowl despite being outgained on the ground (they gave up 1,502 rushing yards while gaining 1,468). Only the 1967 Packers and the 1970 Colts were able to win Super Bowls with such a deficiency.

new england Patriots

New England finished the 1995 season ranked a disappointing twenty-second in the NFL against the run, giving up more than 117 yards per game. Coach Bill Parcells knew the Patriots would have to improve dramatically in this area if they were going to have a chance to make the playoffs in 1996.

Parcells's first order of business was to bring in former Cleveland Browns head coach Bill Belichick to overhaul the defense. Belichick, a defensive specialist who had worked under Parcells with the New York Giants, definitely had his work cut out.

After 11 games of the 1996 season, the Patriots still were struggling against the run, ranking a mediocre fifteenth in the NFL. But then something inexplainable happened—they began shutting down their opponents' running attacks.

Over the last five regular-season games, New England gave up only 64.4 yards per game and finished the season ranked sixth in the NFL (93.9 yards per game). They allowed only 3.5 yards per carry, third best in the NFL.

The strength of the Patriots' rush defense is their explosive outside rush men, defensive end Willie McGinest and linebacker Chris Slade, and hard-hitting middle linebacker Ted Johnson.

McGinest and Slade both do outstanding jobs coming off the corners and forcing running backs into the middle of the field, where the interior linemen and Johnson make the tackles.

DAVID SILVERMAN

Tackle Machine: *Outstanding second-year linebacker Ted Johnson led the Patriots with 115 total tackles in 1996.*

Bookends McGinest (6-5, 255) and Slade (6-5, 242) have similar body types and both get off the ball quickly. They get very good penetration from the outside and both have excellent speed. They also have the ability to make many plays from behind in pursuit.

The up-and-coming star of the Patriots' defensive front seven is second-year middle linebacker Johnson, who led New England with 115 tackles in 1996. He has excellent instincts, vision, and speed that allows him to quickly close on ball carriers and make tackles.

Todd Collins, the Patriots' other outside linebacker, is a steady player with outstanding instincts, but he lacks Johnson's explosiveness.

The Patriots' interior linemen aren't household names, but they do a good job of shutting down the middle of the field.

Defensive tackles Mark Wheeler and Pio Sagapolutele and end Ferric Collons are good at the point of attack. Wheeler is a little undersized for a defensive tackle (6-2, 285), but he and Sagapolutele (6-6, 297) use their strength to control this area of the field. Collons does a good job of using his strength to hold up at the point of attack.

Aggressive rookie strong safety Lawyer Malloy is a physical presence on the field. He is outstanding in run support and punishes ball carriers with hard hits.

tackles

	Solo	Assists	Total
Johnson, LB	87	28	115
Clay, S	73	19	92
Milloy, S	55	30	85
Slade, LB	50	19	69
McGinest, DE	49	18	67
Collins, LB	46	19	65
Law, CB	56	6	62
Wheeler, DT	36	26	62
Ray, S	23	22	45
Jones, DE	28	8	36
M. Brown, LB	20	14	34
Hitchcock, CB	27	5	32
Reynolds, CB	25	7	32
Smith, CB	26	5	31
Sagapolutele, DT	20	8	28

Unofficial; compiled by the Patriots

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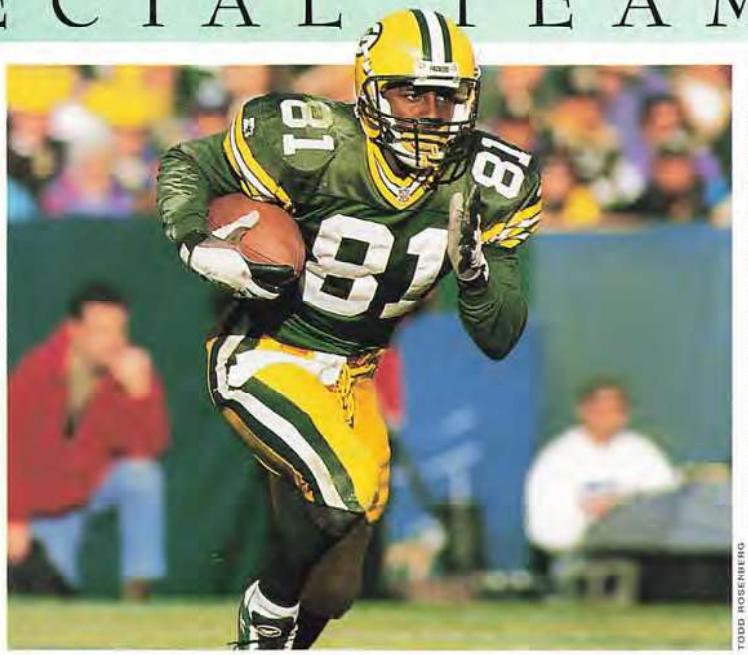
green bay packers



TODD ROSENBERG

Strike a Pose: *Desmond Howard displayed his Hesiman form while setting an NFL record with 875 punt-return yards in 1996.*

Howard, Harris and Jacke. A highly respected Green Bay law firm?

Not quite. These are the names of the three special-teams players who played a pivotal role in the Packers' success this season. Howard is wide receiver Desmond Howard, the 1991 Heisman Trophy winner. Harris is linebacker Bernardo Harris, and Jacke is kicker Chris Jacke, the Packers' second-leading all-time scorer.

Howard led the league with a 15.1-yard punt-return average in 1996, setting an NFL record for punt-return yardage with 875 yards on 58 returns.

When he wasn't setting up touchdowns, Howard was scoring them. He scored three times in the regular season and his 71-yard return for a touchdown set the tone for the Packers' 35-14 win over San Francisco in the NFC Divisional Playoff Game.

Harris made the key block that sprang Howard on his scoring return against the 49ers. When he is not blocking on punt returns, Harris mans the number four attack position on the Packers' kickoff coverage unit. The responsibility of an "attack" player is to get down the field fast, break up the wedge or cause a double team, and make a play on the kick returner. Cornerback Michael Robinson, linebacker Lamont Hollinquest, and running back Travis Jervey are the other attack players on the kickoff unit.

The Packers line up two attack players on opposite sides of the kicker. Harris benefits from lining up next to Jervey, the Packers' fastest player. Teams usually double-team Jervey, which frees Harris to make tackles. He led the special teams in tackles with 21 and Hollinquest was second with 15. The Packers ranked fifteenth in the league in kickoff-return yardage allowed at 21.7 yards per return.

In domes and warm-weather cities, the Packers utilize Jacke on kickoffs, but in poor weather they turn to punter Craig Hentrich.

But the kicking duties are solely Jacke's. He scored 114 points in 1996, and converted 21 of 27 field-goal attempts, including the game winner from 53 yards in overtime to defeat the 49ers in week 7. Jacke is the NFL's leading active kicker in career percentage on kicks of 50 yards or more with 65.4 percent (17 of 26).

With today's game being played in the Superdome, Hentrich can concentrate solely on punting. He averaged 42.4 yards per punt in 1996. Recently, he has drilled some big kicks, including one of 65 yards in the win over Minnesota in the season finale that was fumbled and recovered by the Packers, and a 63-yard punt in the playoff win over San Francisco. Green Bay ranked tenth in the NFL in yards allowed per punt return (8.2).

special teams

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Hentrich	68	2,886	42.4	28	9	65	0	36.3

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Howard	58	16	875	15.1	92t	3
Prior	0	1	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Howard	22	460	20.9	40	0
Beebe	15	403	26.9	90t	1
Levens	5	84	16.8	29	0
Henderson	2	38	19.0	23	0
Thomason	1	20	20.0	20	0
Jervey	1	17	17.0	17	0
Freeman	1	16	16.0	16	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Jacke	0/0	6/6	9/11	5/9	1/1	21/27	51/53	114

scouting report

key facts:

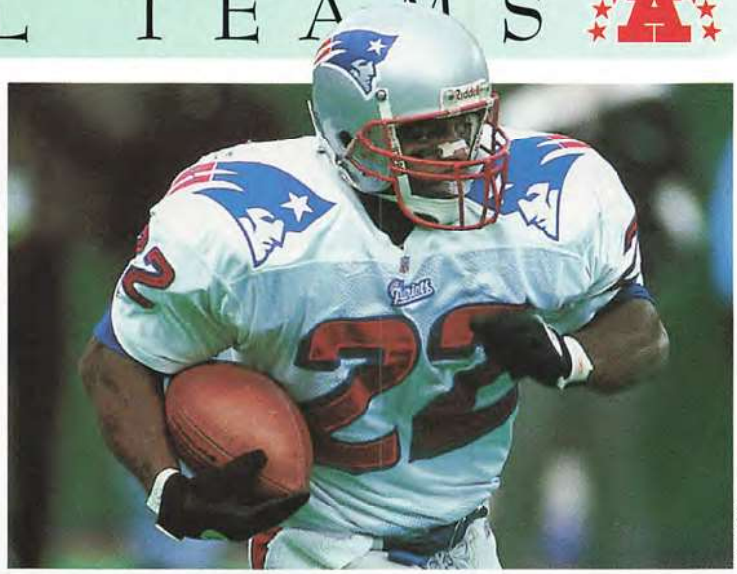
- Chris Jacke is 17 of 26 on field-goal attempts from 50 yards or longer. Jacke made his only attempt from that distance in 1996, beating the 49ers with a 53-yard field goal. It was the NFL's longest overtime field goal ever.
- Like most kickers, Jacke finds domes to his liking. He has made 80 percent of his attempts indoors.
- Desmond Howard's 3 punt returns for scores were the most in the NFL since the Rams' LeRoy Irvin had 3 in 1981.

Scouting Report

new england Patriots

Solid but not spectacular best describes the Patriots' special teams. They lack explosiveness, but they sport no glaring weaknesses, either.

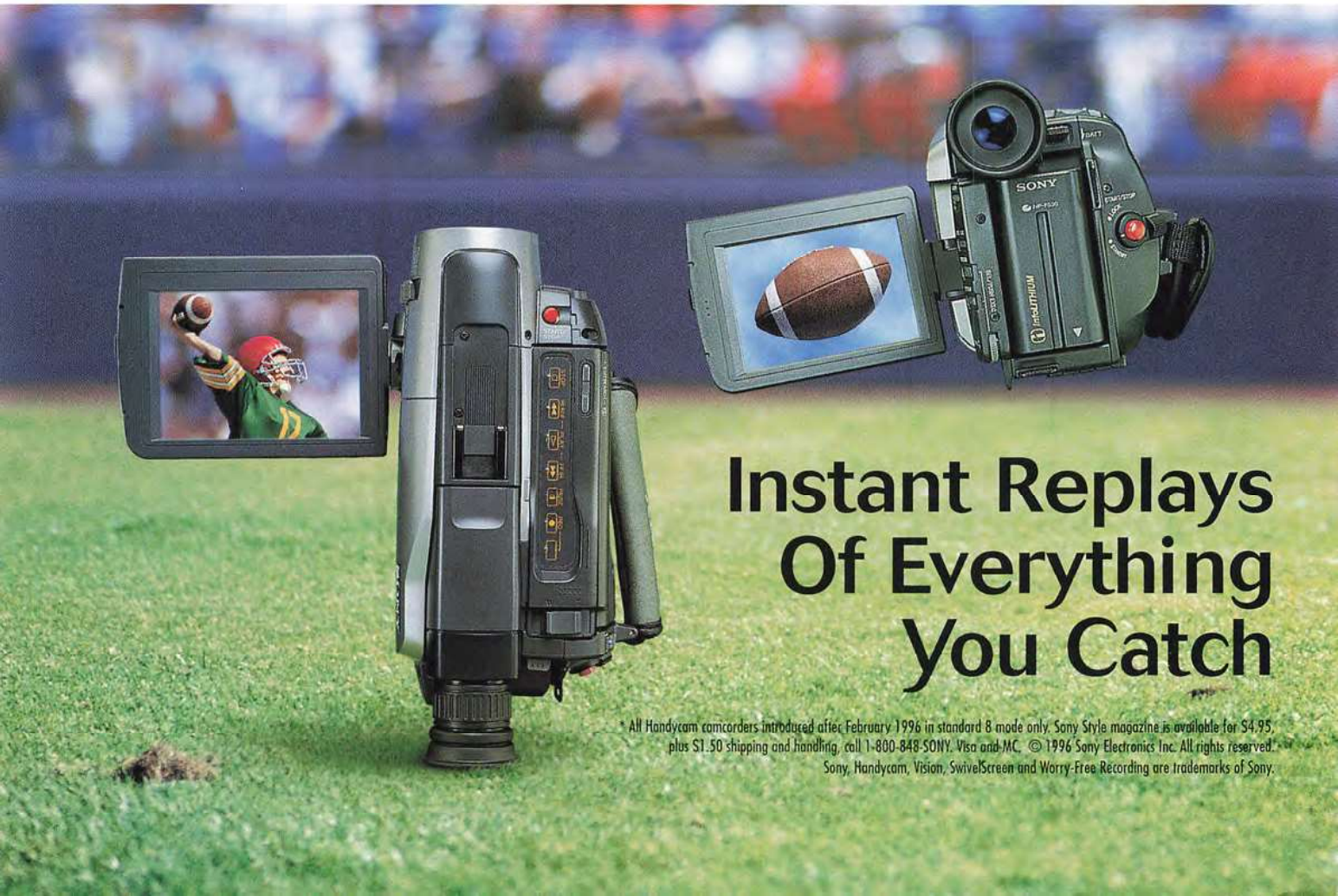
The smallest player on the field is the Patriots' big man on kick returns: 5-foot, 7-inch, 195-pound David Meggett. The do-everything back also played for Bill Parcells in New York, totaling 129 all-purpose yards (48 yards rushing, 18 receiving, 37 returning punts, and 26 returning kickoffs) for the Giants in their victory in Super Bowl XXV.



JIM TURNER

Set-Up Man: *David Meggett's kickoff and punt returns helped give the Patriots excellent field position throughout 1996.*

New uniform, same results. Meggett signed with New England as a free agent in 1995, and has continued to dart among the trees for good yardage. He was the AFC's fourth-best punt returner in 1996 with an 11.3-yard average, including a 60-yard touchdown, his eighth career score on a punt or kickoff return.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Meggett also ranked eighth in the conference with a 23.0-yard average on kickoff returns en route to his second Pro Bowl selection (and first since his rookie year of 1989).

Meggett was joined on kickoff returns by Troy Brown, a fourth-year receiver who averaged 21.9 yards. Together they helped New England post the AFC's best average drive start—the Patriots' 30-yard line.

On the other side, Adam Vinatieri's kickoffs are not long, but they are high enough to help the Patriots' kickoff-coverage unit limit opponents to 20.8 yards per return, ninth best in the league.

Leading the way for that unit are linebacker Marty Moore and safety Larry Whigham, the team's top two special-team tacklers with 23 and 20 stops, respectively. New England is counting on Moore and Whigham to contain Desmond Howard.

Moore forced a fumble in the AFC Championship Game to set up a field goal, and Whigham set up a touchdown in that game with his tackle of Jacksonville punter Bryan Barker at the Jaguars' 4. Whigham also blocked a punt during the regular season.

special teams

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Tupa	63	2,739	43.5	14	7	62	0	36.0
Vinatieri	1	27	27.0	1	0	27	0	27.0

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Meggett	52	9	588	11.3	60t	1

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Meggett	34	781	23.0	54	0
T. Brown	29	634	21.9	51	0
Gisler	1	9	9.0	9	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Vinatieri	1/1	9/10	8/8	8/14	1/2	27/35	39/42	120

t-touchdown

New England's punting unit is distinctly average—thirteenth in gross punting average (43.2), seventeenth in net punting (35.8), and fifteenth in covering punt returns (9.8). Punter Tom Tupa also is the Patriots' reserve quarterback, and Parcells loves fake punts, something Green Bay will have to keep in mind when New England lines up for a punt.

Vinatieri handles the kicking for the Patriots. He already has had a long year, playing 10 games in the World League, followed by 22 games with New England (four preseason, 16 regular season, and two postseason).

Vinatieri shows no signs of fatigue, actually getting better as the season has progessed. After a shaky 3 for 7 start, he made 24 of his last 28 field-goal attempts.

key facts:

- No offense in the NFL got a better start than the Patriots, thanks to their kickoff-return unit. New England's average drive began on its 30, the best in the AFC.
- Watch for the fake punt. Tom Tupa played quarterback at Ohio State and for the Cardinals.
- David Meggett had the Patriots' first punt return for a touchdown since Irving Fryar in 1986.

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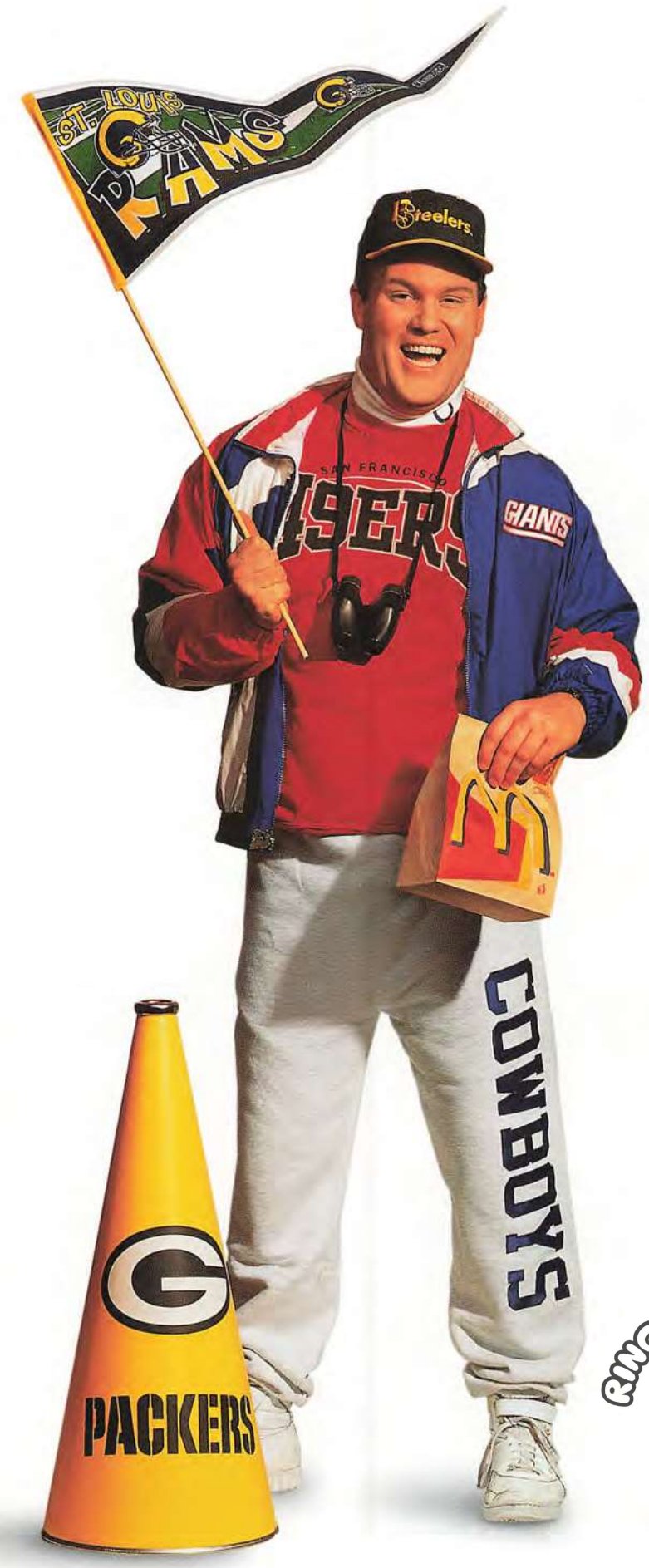

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Name: Matt Figurski

Age: 38

Weight: A chiseled 202 lbs. (but could you list me at 215 lbs. – they always make guys bigger in the program).

Nickname: "Stump" I was really hard to knock over in my high school playing days – it just sort of stuck.

Favorite NFL Play: Any hit by Rod Woodson – actually, any play where Rod is on the field.

Biggest Occasion Missed Due to Football: I missed my brother's wedding for a playoff game. Only problem was, he was with me.

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COACHING STAFF

green bay packers

Head Coach
Mike Holmgren

Mike Holmgren became Green Bay's eleventh head coach on January 11, 1992, and since that time, the Packers have returned to the winning tradition established by Vince Lombardi in the 1960s.

Holmgren, who spent six years with the 49ers as their quarterbacks coach (1986-88) and offensive coordinator (1989-1991) and helped guide San Francisco to victories in Super Bowls XXIII and XXIV, directed Green Bay to its first appearance in a Super Bowl since the 1967 season.

In 1996, the Packers posted the best record in the NFC and had the league's best defense. During Holmgren's tenure, Green Bay has recorded five consecutive winning seasons (9-7 each year from 1992-94, 11-5 in 1995, and 13-3 in 1996) for the first time since 1963-67.

Holmgren played quarterback at Southern California (1966-69) and was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the eighth round of the 1970 NFL draft. He was an assistant coach at San Francisco State (1981) and Brigham Young (1982-85) before joining the 49ers.

Born June 15, 1948, in San Francisco, Holmgren and his wife Kathy live in Green Bay and have four daughters—Calla, Jenny, Emily, and Gretchen.

The Packers' assistant coaches:

Larry Brooks, defensive line; born June 10, 1950, Prince George, Virginia, lives in Green Bay. Defensive lineman Virginia State 1968-1971. Pro defensive tackle Los Angeles Rams 1972-1982. College coach: Virginia State 1992-93. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1983-1990, joined Packers in 1994.

Nolan Cromwell, special teams; born January 30, 1955, Smith Center, Kansas, lives in Green Bay. Quarterback-safety Kansas 1973-76. Pro defensive back Los Angeles Rams 1977-1987. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Gil Haskell, wide receivers; born September 24, 1943, San Francisco, lives in Green Bay. Defensive back San Francisco State 1961, 1963-65. No pro playing experience. College coach: Southern California 1978-1982. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1983-1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Johnny Holland, defensive assistant-quality control; born March 11, 1965, Hempstead, Texas, lives in Green Bay. Linebacker Texas A&M 1983-86. Pro linebacker Green Bay Packers 1987-1993. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1995.

Kent Johnston, strength and conditioning; born February 21, 1956, Mexia, Texas, lives in Green Bay. Defensive back Stephen F. Austin 1974-77. No pro playing experience. College coach: Northwestern State (Louisiana) 1979, Northeast Louisiana 1980-81, Alabama 1983-86. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1987-1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Sherman Lewis, offensive coordinator; born June 29, 1942, Louisville, Kentucky, lives in Green Bay. Running back Michigan State 1961-63. Pro running back Toronto Argonauts (CFL) 1964-65, New York Jets 1966. College coach: Michigan State 1969-1982. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1983-1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Jim Lind, linebackers; born November 11, 1947, Isle, Minnesota, lives in Green Bay. Linebacker Bethel College 1965-66; defensive back Bemidji State 1971-72. No pro playing experience. College coach: St. Cloud State 1977-78, St. John's (Minn.) 1979-1980, Brigham Young 1981-82, Minnesota-Morris 1983-86 (head coach), Wisconsin-Eau Claire 1987-1991 (head coach). Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1992.

Tom Lovat, offensive line; born December 28, 1938, Bingham, Utah, lives in Green Bay. Guard-linebacker Utah 1958-1960. No pro playing experience. College coach: Utah 1967, 1972-76 (head coach 1974-76), Idaho State 1968-1970, Stanford 1977-79, Wyoming 1989. Pro coach: Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL) 1971, Green Bay Packers 1980, St. Louis-Phoenix Cardinals 1981-84, 1990-91, Indianapolis Colts 1985-88, rejoined Packers in 1992.

Marty Mornhinweg, quarterbacks; born March 29, 1962, Edmond, Oklahoma, lives in Green Bay. Quarterback Montana 1981-84. Pro quarterback Denver Dynamite (Arena Football) 1986. College coach: Montana 1985, Texas-El Paso 1986-87, Northern Arizona 1988, Southeast Missouri State 1989-1990, Missouri 1991-93, Northern Arizona 1994. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1995.

Andy Reid, tight ends-assistant offensive line; born March 19, 1958, Los Angeles, lives in Green Bay. Offensive tackle-guard Brigham Young 1978-1980. No pro playing experience. College coach: Brigham Young 1982, San Francisco State 1983-85, Northern Arizona 1986, Texas-El Paso 1987, Missouri 1988-1991. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1992.

Gary Reynolds, offensive assistant/quality control; born October 5, 1966, Boston, lives in Green Bay. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: Texas A&M 1991-1992, Tennessee 1993. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1993.

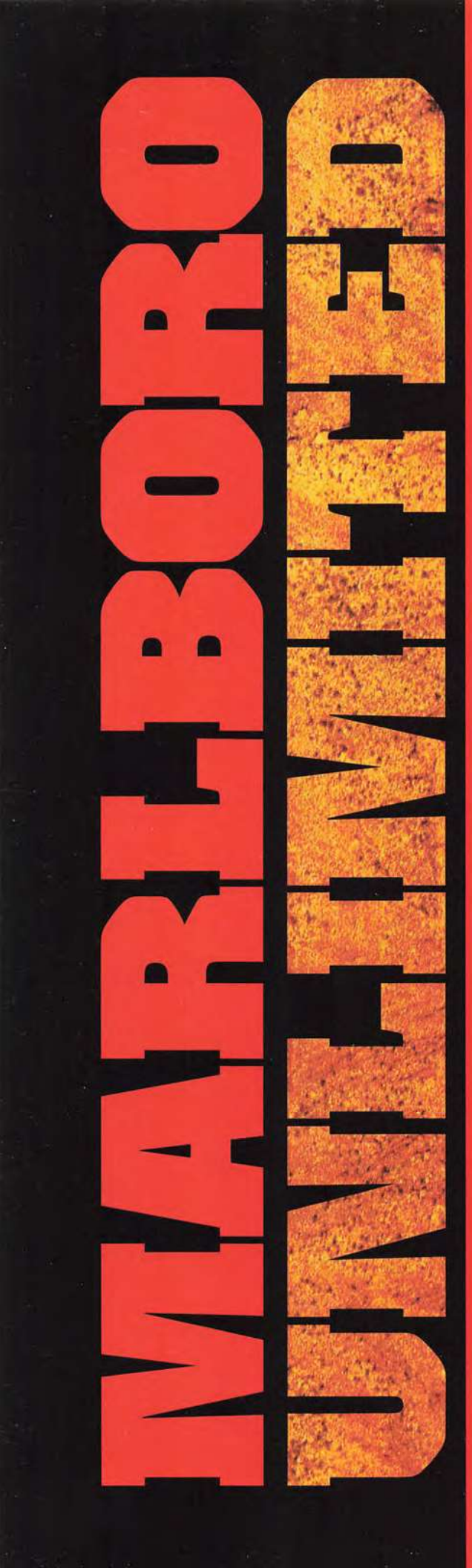
Fritz Shurmur, defensive coordinator; born July 15, 1932, Riverview, Michigan, lives in Green Bay. No pro playing experience. College coach: Albion 1956-1961, Wyoming 1962-1974 (head coach 1971-74). Pro coach: Detroit Lions 1975-77, New England Patriots 1978-1981, Los Angeles Rams 1982-1990, Phoenix Cardinals 1991-93, joined Packers in 1994.

Harry Sydney, running backs; born June 26, 1959, Petersburg, Virginia, lives in Green Bay. Quarterback/running back Kansas 1978-1981. Pro running back Denver Gold (USFL) 1983-84, Memphis Showboats (USFL) 1985, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1986, San Francisco 49ers 1987-1991, Green Bay Packers 1992. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1994.

Bob Valesente, defensive backs; born July 19, 1940, Seneca Falls, New York, lives in Green Bay. Halfback Ithaca College 1958-1961. No pro playing experience. College coach: Cornell 1964-1974, Cincinnati 1975-76, Arizona 1977-79, Mississippi State 1980-81, Kansas 1984-87 (head coach 1986-87), Maryland 1988, Pittsburgh 1989. Pro coach: Baltimore Colts 1982-83, Pittsburgh Steelers 1990-91, joined Packers in 1992.

how packers were built

1989 • 10-6 2nd NFC Central	Draft: K Chris Jacke (6)
1990 • 6-10 4th NFC Central	Draft: S LeRoy Butler (2)
1992 • 9-7 2nd NFC Central	Draft: RB Edgar Bennett (4), TE Mark Chmura (6) Free Agent: C Frank Winters Trade: QB Brett Favre (from Atlanta)
1993 • 10-8 3rd NFC Central	Draft: LB Wayne Simmons (1A), T Earl Dotson (3), CB Doug Evans (6A), DT Bob Kuberski (7) Free Agent: P Craig Hentrich, S Mike Prior, DE Reggie White Waivers: DT Gilbert Brown (from Minnesota)
1994 • 10-8 2nd NFC Central	Draft: G Aaron Taylor (1), DE Gabe Wilkins (4), WR Terry Mickens (5A), RB Dorsey Levens (5B) Free Agent: DE Sean Jones Waivers: G-T Gary Brown (from Pittsburgh)
1995 • 13-6 1st NFC Central	Draft: CB Craig Newsome (1), DT Darius Holland (3A), RB William Henderson (3B), LB Brian Williams (3C), WR Antonio Freeman (3D), RB Travis Jervey (5B), G Adam Timmerman (7) Free Agent: DE Shannon Clavelle, LB Bernardo Harris, S Roderick Mullen, QB Doug Pederson, TE Jeff Thomason Trade: TE Keith Jackson (from Miami), G Lindsay Knapp (from Kansas City) Waivers: QB Jim McMahon (from Cleveland)
1996 • 15-3 NFC Champions	Draft: T John Michels (1), WR Derrick Mayes (2), CB Tyrone Williams (3B), G Marco Rivera (6), LB Keith McKenzie, QB Kyle Wachholtz (7B) Free Agent: WR Don Beebe, LB Ron Cox, C Jeff Dellenbach, DT Santana Dotson, S Chris Hayes, LB Lamont Hollinquest, WR Desmond Howard, WR Andre Rison, CB Michael Robinson, T Bruce Wilkerson Trade: S Eugene Robinson (from Seattle) Waivers: RB Calvin Jones (from Oakland)
	Draft (25) Free Agents (20) Trade (4) Waivers (4)



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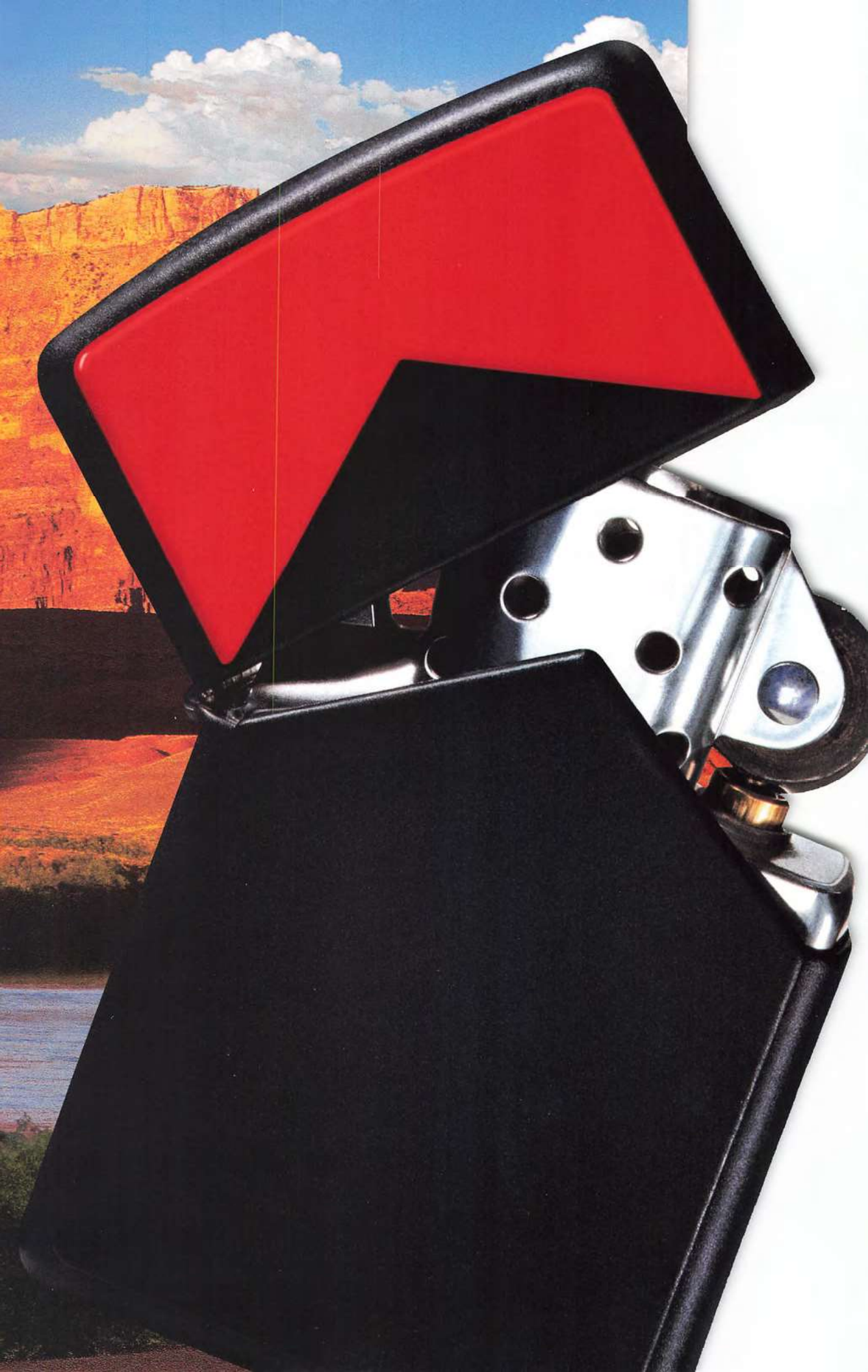

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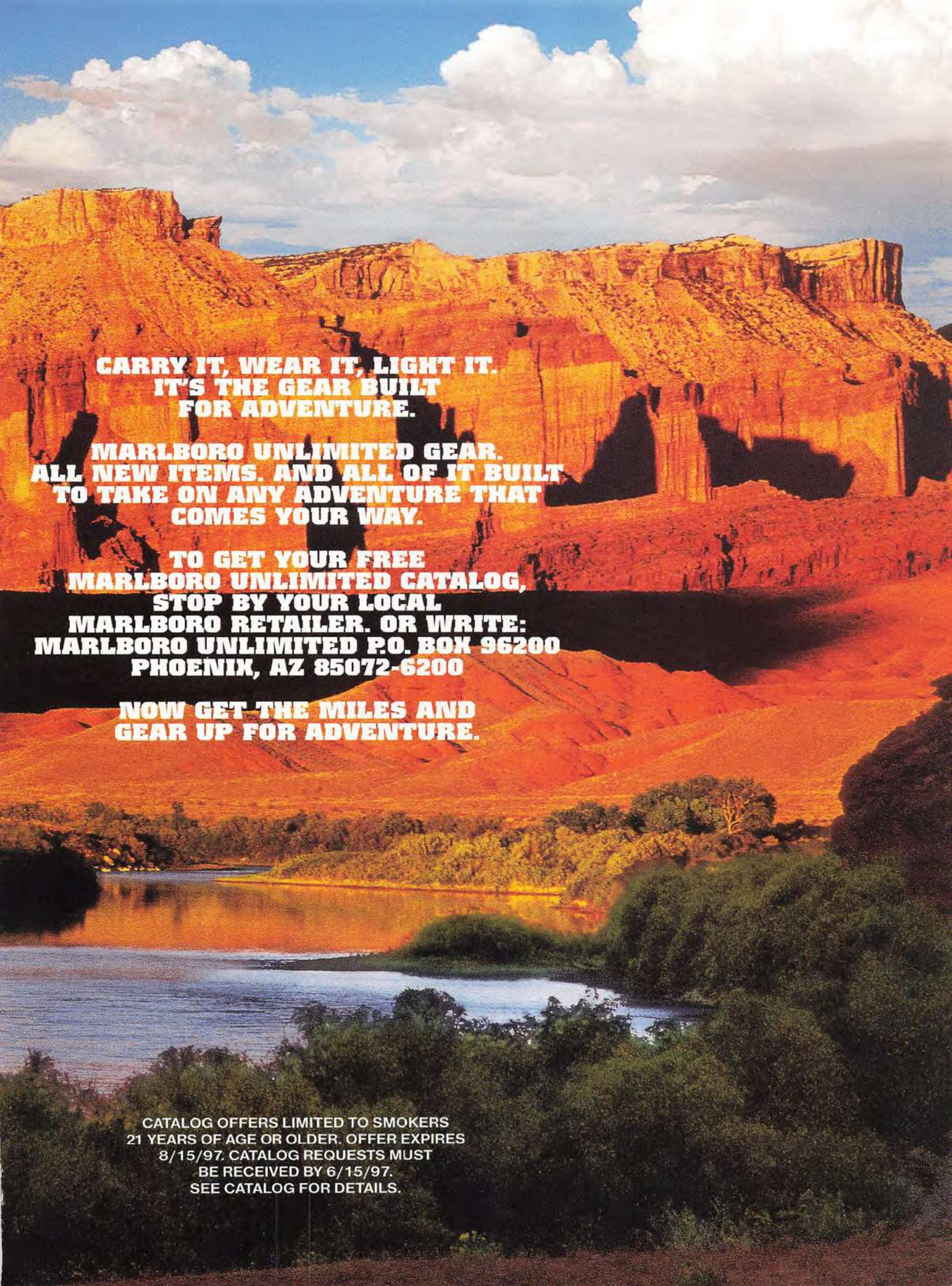
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COACHING STAFF

new england Patriots

Head Coach
Bill Parcells
In his fourth season as head coach of the New York Giants, Bill Parcells led the club to Super Bowl XXI. In his fourth season with the Patriots, he duplicated the feat.

Despite losing the first two games of the 1996 season, the Patriots won the AFC Eastern Division with an 11-5 record.

On January 21, 1993, Parcells became the franchise's thirteenth head coach. It took Parcells just two seasons to resurrect the 2-14 team he inherited in 1992 into a playoff team in 1994. He made his NFL coaching debut with the Patriots as the linebackers coach (1980), then joined the Giants as linebackers coach in 1981, and was named the Giants' head coach in 1983. In eight seasons at the helm, Parcells led his teams to two Super Bowl championships. On May 15, 1991, health concerns caused Parcells to resign from the Giants. During his two seasons away from coaching, Parcells worked for NBC Sports.

Parcells played linebacker at Wichita State 1961-63. He was a college assistant coach with Hastings (Nebraska) 1964, Wichita State 1965, Army 1966-69, Florida State 1970-72, Vanderbilt 1973-74, Texas Tech 1975-77, and Air Force 1978 (head coach).

Parcells was born on August 22, 1941, in Englewood, New Jersey. Bill and his wife, Judy, live in Foxboro, Massachusetts, and have three daughters—Suzy, Jill, and Dallas.

The Patriots' assistant coaches:

Bill Belichick, assistant head coach/defensive backs; born April 16, 1952, Nashville, Tennessee, lives in Weston, Massachusetts. Center/tight end Wesleyan 1971-75. No pro playing experience. Pro coach: Baltimore Colts 1975, Detroit Lions 1976-77, Denver Broncos 1978, New York Giants 1979-1990, Cleveland Browns 1991-95 (head coach), joined Patriots in 1996.

Maurice Carthon, running backs; born April 24, 1961, Chicago, lives in Foxboro. Running back Arkansas State 1979-1982. Pro running back New Jersey Generals (USFL) 1983-85, New York Giants 1985-1991, Indianapolis Colts 1992. Pro coach: Joined Patriots in 1994.

Romeo Crennel, defensive line; born June 18, 1947, Lynchburg, Virginia, lives in Walpole, Massachusetts. Defensive tackle, linebacker Western Kentucky 1966-69. No pro playing experience. College coach: Western Kentucky 1970-74, Texas Tech 1975-77, Mississippi 1978-79, Georgia Tech 1980. Pro coach: New York Giants 1981-1992, joined Patriots in 1993.

Al Groh, defensive coordinator-linebackers; born July 13, 1944, New York City. Defensive end Virginia 1964-67. No pro playing experience. College coach: Army 1968-69, Virginia 1970-72, North Carolina 1973-77, Air Force 1978-79, Texas Tech 1980, Wake Forest 1981-86 (head coach), South Carolina 1988. Pro coach: Atlanta Falcons 1987, New York Giants 1989-1991, Cleveland Browns 1992, joined Patriots in 1993.

Fred Hoaglin, offensive line; born January 28, 1944, Alliance, Ohio, lives in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Center Pittsburgh 1962-65. Pro center Cleveland Browns 1966-1972, Baltimore Colts 1973, Houston Oilers 1974-75, Seattle Seahawks 1976. Pro coach: Detroit Lions 1978-1984, New York Giants 1985-1992, joined Patriots in 1993.

Chris Palmer, quarterbacks; born September 23, 1949, Mt. Kisco, New York, lives in Foxboro. Quarterback Southern Connecticut State 1968-1971. No pro playing experience. College coach: Connecticut 1972-74, Lehigh 1975, Colgate 1976-1982, New Haven 1986-87 (head coach), Boston University 1988-89 (head coach). Pro coach: Montreal Concordes (CFL) 1983, New Jersey Generals (USFL) 1984-85, Houston Oilers 1990-92, joined Patriots in 1993.

Johnny Parker, strength and conditioning; born February 1, 1947, Greenville, South Carolina, lives in Foxboro. Graduate of Mississippi, master's degree from Delta State University. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: South Carolina 1974-76, Indiana 1977-79, Louisiana State 1980, Mississippi 1981-83. Pro coach: New York Giants 1984-1992, joined Patriots in 1993.

Ray Perkins, offensive coordinator; born November 6, 1941, Mount Olive, Mississippi, lives in Foxboro. Wide receiver Alabama 1964-66. Pro receiver Baltimore Colts 1967-1971. College coach: Mississippi State 1973, Alabama 1983-86 (head coach), Arkansas State 1992 (head coach). Pro coach: New England Patriots 1974-77, San Diego Chargers 1978, New York Giants 1979-1982 (head coach), Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1987-1990 (head coach), rejoined Patriots in 1993.

Michael Pope, tight ends; born March 15, 1942, Monroe, North Carolina, lives in Foxboro. Quarterback Lenoir Rhyne 1962-64. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida State 1970-74, Texas Tech 1975-77, Mississippi 1978-1982. Pro coach: New York Giants 1983-1991, Cincinnati Bengals 1992-93, joined Patriots in 1994.

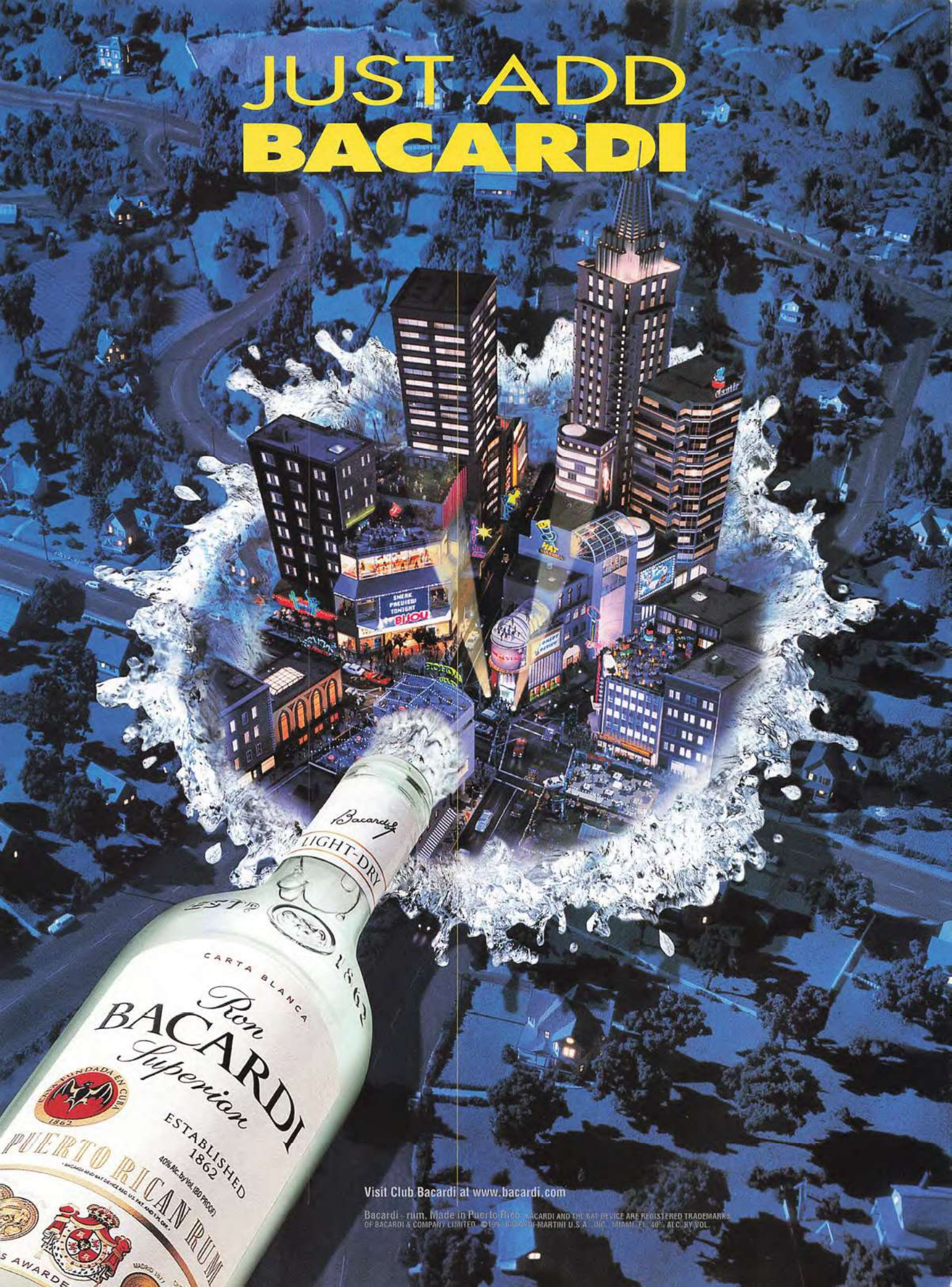
Dante Scarnecchia, defensive assistant-linebackers; born February 15, 1948, Los Angeles, lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts. Center-guard California Western 1968-1970. No pro playing experience. College coach: California Western (now U.S. International) 1970-72, Iowa State 1973, Southern Methodist 1975-76, 1980-81, Pacific 1977-78, Northern Arizona 1979. Pro coach: New England Patriots 1982-89, Indianapolis Colts 1990, rejoined Patriots in 1991.

Mike Sweatman, special teams; born October 23, 1947, Kansas City, Missouri, lives in Foxboro. Linebacker Kansas 1964-67. No pro playing experience. College coach: Kansas 1973-74, 1979-1982, Tulsa 1977-78, Tennessee 1983. Pro coach: Minnesota Vikings 1984, New York Giants 1985-1992, joined Patriots in 1993.

Charlie Weis, wide receivers; born March 30, 1956, Trenton, New Jersey, lives in Foxboro. Graduate of Notre Dame. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: South Carolina 1985-88. Pro coach: New York Giants 1990-92, joined Patriots in 1993.

how patriots were built

1987 • 8-7 2nd AFC East	Draft: T Bruce Armstrong (1)
1991 • 6-10 4th AFC East	Draft: QB Scott Zolak (4), TE Ben Coates (5B)
1992 • 2-14 5th AFC East	Draft: LB Todd Collins (3A), LB Dwayne Sabb (5)
1993 • 5-11 4th AFC East	Draft: QB Drew Bledsoe (1), LB Chris Slade (2A), G Todd Rucci (2B), WR Vincent Brisby (2C), CB Corwin Brown (4B) Free Agent: C Mike Gisler Waivers: S Terry Ray
1994 • 10-7 2nd AFC East	Draft: DE Willie McGinest (1), TE John Burke (4), T Max Lane (6B), LB Marty Moore (7B) Free Agent: WR Troy Brown, DE Mike Jones, G Bob Kratch, CB Ricky Reynolds, S Larry Whigham
1995 • 6-10 4th AFC East	Draft: CB Ty Law (1), LB Ted Johnson (2), RB Curtis Martin (3A), CB Jimmy Hitchcock (3B), C Dave Wohlabaugh (4) Free Agent: WR Hason Graham, RB David Meggett, G William Roberts Trade: DE Ferric Collons (from Green Bay)
1996 • 13-5 AFC Champions	Draft: WR Terry Glenn (1), S Lawyer Milloy (2), LB Tedy Bruschi (3), G Heath Irwin (4A), DE Chris Sullivan (4B), RB Marrio Grier (6B), DT Devin Wyman (6C), TE Lovett Purnell (7A) Free Agent: RB-TE Keith Byars, S Willie Clay, DT Chad Eaton, CB Jerome Henderson, WR Shawn Jefferson, WR Ray Lucas, CB Mike McGruder, DT Pio Sagapolutele, CB Otis Smith, P-QB Tom Tupa, K Adam Vinatieri, DT Mark Wheeler Trade: TE Mike Bartrum (from Green Bay) Waivers: WR Dietrich Jells, T Dave Richards
	Draft (27), Trade (2), Free Agents (21), Waivers (3)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CLUB DIRECTORY

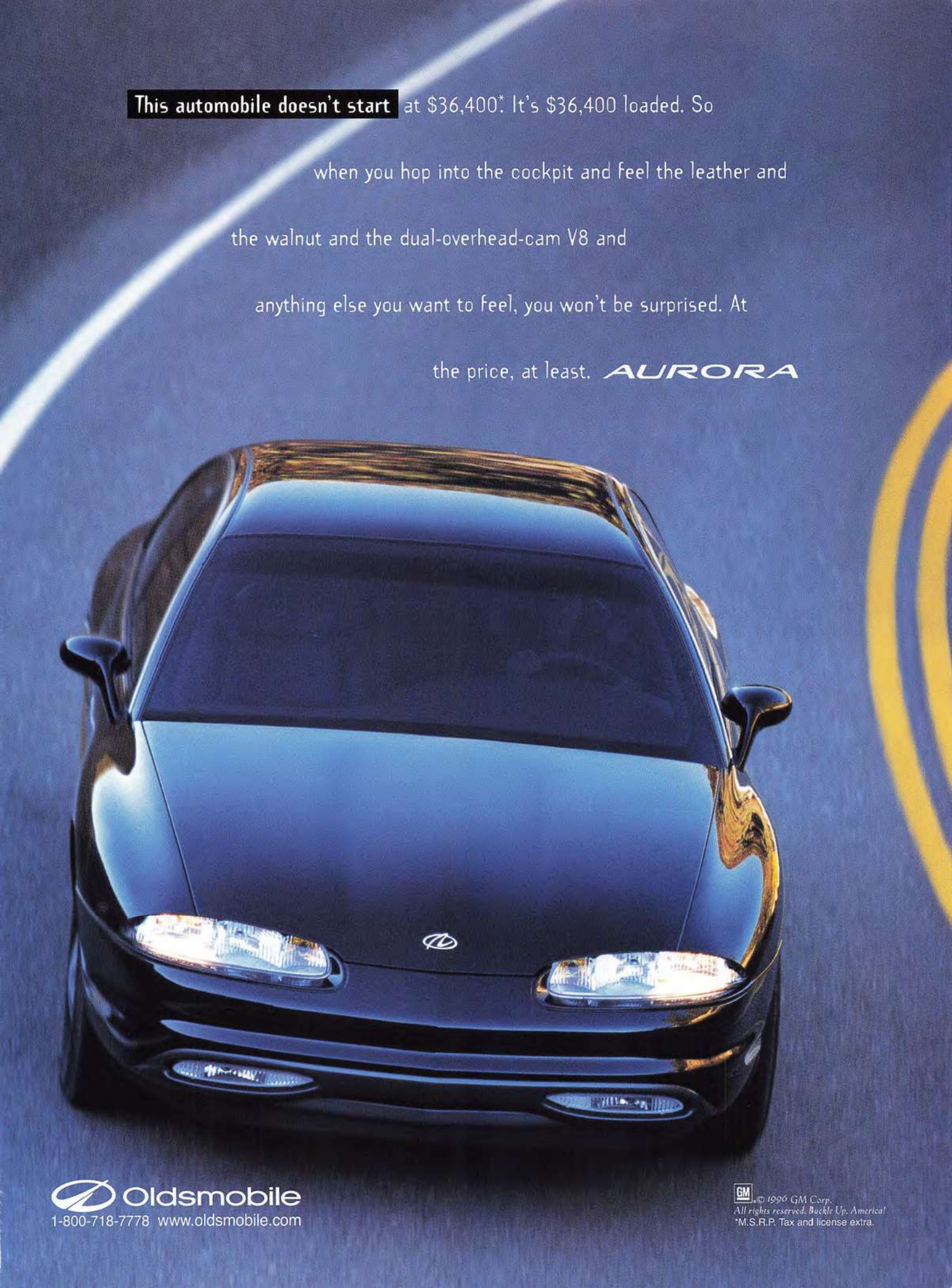
Mike Holmgren	Head Coach
Larry Brooks	Assistant Coach
Nolan Cromwell	Assistant Coach
Gil Haskell	Assistant Coach
Johnny Holland	Assistant Coach
Kent Johnston	Assistant Coach
Sherman Lewis	Assistant Coach
Jim Lind	Assistant Coach
Tom Lovat	Assistant Coach
Marty Mornhinweg	Assistant Coach
Andy Reid	Assistant Coach
Gary Reynolds	Assistant Coach
Fritz Shurmur	Assistant Coach
Harry Sydney	Assistant Coach
Bob Valesente	Assistant Coach
ADMINISTRATION	
Robert E. Harlan	President and CEO
Michael R. Reinfeldt	Vice President of Admin./Chief Financial Officer
Ron Wolf	Executive Vice President/General Manager
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS	
Ted Thompson	Director of Pro Personnel
Reggie McKenzie	Pro Personnel Assistant
John Schneider	Pro Personnel Assistant
John Math	Director of College Scouting (West)
Bryan Broaddus	College Scouting Administrator
Todd Bowles	College Scout (East)
John Dorsey	College Scout (Southeast)
Shaun Herock	College Scout (Midwest)
Scot McCloughan	College Scout (Rocky Mountains)
Sam Seale	College Scout (Southwest)
John (Red) Cochran	College Scout (North)
Al Treml	Video Director
Bob Eckberg	Assistant Video Director
Chris Kirby	Video Assistant
Gordon (Red) Batty	Equipment Manager
Tom Bakken	Assistant Equipment Manager
Bryan Nehring	Assistant Equipment Manager
Tim O'Neill	Equipment Assistant
Pepper Burruss	Head Trainer
Dr. Patrick McKenzie	Team Physician
Dr. John Gray	Associate Team Physician
Kurt Fielding	Assistant Trainer
Sam Ramsden	Assistant Trainer
Andre Daniel	Training Room Intern
Barry Rubin	Strength and Conditioning Assistant
CLUB PERSONNEL	
Duane (Duke) Copp	Accountant
Lance Lopes	General Counsel
Jerry Parins	Corporate Security Officer
Phil Pionek	Executive Assistant to the President
Sherry Schuldes	Director of Family Programs/Player Speakers Bureau
Vicki Vanmieuwenhoven	Accountant
Wayne Wichlacz	Director of Computer Services
Margaret Meyers	Administrative Assistant/Business Affairs
Mike Jelenic	Computer Services Assistant
Lee Remmel	Executive Director of Public Relations
Jeff Blumb	Assistant Director of Public Relations
Mark Schiefelbein	Assistant Dir. of Public Relations/Travel Coordinator
Paula Martin	Public Relations Administrative Assistant
Linda McCrossin	Secretary/Receptionist
Aaron Popkey	Public Relations Intern
Jim Nagy	Public Relations Intern
Jeff Cieply	Director of Marketing
Ralph Ockenfels	Assistant Director of Marketing
Kandi Goltz	Marketing Assistant
Brian Bauman	Marketing Intern
Kate Hogan	Packer Pro Shop Manager
Lisa Berg	Packer Pro Shop Assistant/Retail Sales
Julie Schurk	Packer Pro Shop Assistant/Catalog Sales
Mark Wagner	Ticket Director
Carol Edwin	Assistant Ticket Director
Ann Marie Laes	Ticket Office Assistant
Chris Wahlen	Ticket Office Assistant
Ann Dabeck	Receptionist
LaFawn Joslin	Receptionist
Leo Yelle	Mail Clerk
Jeanne Bruette	Administrative Assistant to the General Manager
Susan Kluck	Administrative Assistant to the Head Coach
Diane Coron	Coaches Secretary
Marianne McDermid	Pro Personnel Secretary
Ted Eisenreich	Buildings Supervisor
Todd Edlebeck	Fields Supervisor
Bill Rasmussen	Maintenance Assistant
Dave Tilot	Maintenance Assistant
Patrick (Ollie) Helf	Maintenance Assistant
Vernon J. Biever	Game Day Sideline Photographer
James V. Biever	Game Day Sideline Photographer
Harmann Studios	Game Day Portrait Photographers
Lovell Ives	Game Day Halftime Director
Jim Lawler, Jr.	Game Day Program Sales

PACKERS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	183	12/18/64	8	Chadron State
34	Bennett, Edgar	RB	6-0	217	2/15/69	5	Florida State
68	Brown, Gary	G-T	6-4	315	6/25/71	3	Georgia Tech
93	Brown, Gilbert	DT	6-2	325	2/22/71	4	Kansas
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	200	7/19/68	7	Florida State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	250	2/22/69	5	Boston College
91	Clavelle, Shannon	DE	6-2	287	10/12/73	2	Colorado
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	3/29/68	7	Fresno State
67	Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6-6	300	2/14/63	12	Wisconsin
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-4	315	12/17/70	4	Texas A&I
71	Dotson, Santana	DT	6-5	285	12/19/69	5	Baylor
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-1	190	5/13/70	4	Louisiana Tech
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	225	10/10/69	6	Southern Mississippi
86	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-1	190	5/27/72	2	Virginia Tech
55	Harris, Bernardo	LB	6-2	243	10/15/71	2	North Carolina
40	Hayes, Chris	S	6-0	200	5/7/72	R	Washington State
30	Henderson, William	RB	6-2	248	2/19/71	2	North Carolina
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	5/18/71	3	Notre Dame
90	Holland, Darius	DT	6-5	310	11/10/73	2	Colorado
56	Hollinquest, Lamont	LB	6-3	243	10/24/70	3	Southern California
81	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-10	180	5/15/70	5	Michigan
13	Jacke, Chris	K	6-0	205	3/12/66	8	Texas-El Paso
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	258	4/19/65	9	Oklahoma
32	Jervey, Travis	RB	6-0	225	5/5/72	2	The Citadel
27	Jones, Calvin	RB	5-11	205	11/27/70	3	Nebraska
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	283	12/19/62	13	Northeastern
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G	6-6	300	2/25/70	4	Notre Dame
94	Kuberski, Bob	DT	6-5	295	4/5/71	2	Navy
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	235	5/21/70	3	Georgia Tech
80	Mayes, Derrick	WR	6-1	200	1/28/74	R	Notre Dame
95	McKenzie, Keith	DE-LB	6-3	242	10/17/73	R	Ball State
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	195	8/21/59	15	Brigham Young
77	Michels, John	T	6-7	290	3/19/73	R	Southern California
85	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-1	198	2/21/71	3	Florida A&M
28	Mullen, Roderick	CB-S	6-1	204	12/5/72	2	Grambling
21	Newsome, Craig	CB	6-0	190	8/10/71	2	Arizona State
18	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	215	1/31/68	4	Northeast Louisiana
39	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	208	11/14/63	11	Illinois State
84	Rison, Andre	WR	6-1	195	3/18/67	8	Michigan State
62	Rivera, Marco	G	6-4	295	4/26/72	R	Penn State
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	195	5/28/63	12	Colgate
46	Robinson, Michael	CB	6-1	192	6/24/73	R	Hampton
59	Simmons, Wayne	LB	6-3	248	12/15/69	4	Clemson
73	Taylor, Aaron	G	6-4	305	11/14/72	3	Notre Dame
83	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-5	250	12/30/69	4	Oregon
63	Timmerman, Adam	G	6-4	295	8/14/71	2	South Dakota State
7	Wachholtz, Kyle	QB	6-4	235	5/17/72	R	Southern California
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	300	12/19/61	12	Tennessee
64	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	305	7/28/64	10	Tennessee
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-5	305	9/1/71	3	Gardner-Webb
51	Williams, Brian	LB	6-2	235	12/17/72	2	Southern California
37	Williams, Tyrone	CB	5-11	195	5/31/73	R	Nebraska
52	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	295	1/23/64	10	Western Illinois

DEPTH CHART

Offense							
WR	— 86	Antonio Freeman	85	Terry Mickens	80	Derrick Mayes	
LT	— 64	Bruce Wilkerson	77	John Michels	68	Gary Brown	
LG	— 73	Aaron Taylor	65	Lindsay Knapp	68	Gary Brown	
C	— 52	Frank Winters	67	Jeff Dellenbach			
RG	— 63	Adam Timmerman	65	Lindsay Knapp	62	Marco Rivera	
RT	— 72	Earl Dotson	64	Bruce Wilkerson			
TE	— 89	Mark Chmura	88	Keith Jackson	83	Jeff Thomason	
WR	— 84	Andre Rison	82	Don Beebe	81	Desmond Howard	
QB	— 4	Brett Favre	9	Jim McMahon	18	Doug Pederson	
					7	Kyle Wachholtz	
RB	— 34	Edgar Bennett	32	Travis Jervey			
RB	— 30	William Henderson	25	Dorsey Levens	27	Calvin Jones	
Defense							
LE	— 92	Reggie White	98	Gabe Wilkins	95	Keith McKenzie	
DT	— 71	Santana Dotson	90	Darius Holland			
NT	— 93	Gilbert Brown	90	Darius Holland	94	Bob Kuberski	
RE	— 96	Sean Jones	98	Gabe Wilkins	91	Shannon Clavelle	
LOLB	— 59	Wayne Simmons	55	Bernardo Harris	95	Keith McKenzie	
MLB	— 54	Ron Cox	55	Bernardo Harris			
ROLB	— 51	Brian Williams	56	Lamont Hollinquest			
LCB	— 21	Craig Newsome	37	Tyrone Williams	28	Roderick Mullen	
RCB	— 33	Doug Evans	37	Tyrone Williams	46	Michael Robinson	
SS	— 36	LeRoy Butler	39	Mike Prior	28	Roderick Mullen	
FS	— 41	Eugene Robinson	39	Mike Prior	40	Chris Hayes	
Specialists							
P	— 17	Craig Hentrich					
K	— 13	Chris Jacke	17	Craig Hentrich			
KO	— 17	Craig Hentrich	13	Chris Jacke			
H	— 17	Craig Hentrich	82	Don Beebe			
PR	— 81	Desmond Howard	86	Antonio Freeman	39	Mike Prior	
KR	— 81	Desmond Howard	82	Don Beebe	32	Travis Jervey	
					25	Dorsey Levens	
PC	— 89	Mark Chmura	52	Frank Winters	67	Jeff Dellenbach	
KC	— 67	Jeff Dellenbach	52	Frank Winters			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STARTING

Patriots Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos
4	Adam Vinatieri	K
11	Drew Bledsoe	QB
15	Ray Lucas	WR
16	Scott Zolak	QB
19	Tom Tupa	P-QB
21	Ricky Reynolds	CB
22	David Meggett	RB
23	Terry Ray	S
24	Ty Law	CB
25	Larry Whigham	S
26	Jerome Henderson	CB
27	Mike McGruder	CB
28	Curtis Martin	RB
30	Corwin Brown	S
31	Jimmy Hitchcock	CB
32	Willie Clay	S
35	Marrio Grier	RB
36	Lawyer Milloy	S
41	Keith Byars	RB-TE
45	Otis Smith	CB
48	Lovett Purnell	TE
52	Ted Johnson	LB
53	Chris Slade	LB
54	Tedy Bruschi	LB
55	Willie McGinest	DE
58	Marty Moore	LB
59	Todd Collins	LB
61	Bob Kratch	G
62	Dave Richards	T
63	Heath Irwin	G
64	Dave Wohlabaugh	C
67	Mike Gisler	C
68	Max Lane	T
71	Todd Rucci	G
72	Devin Wyman	DT
74	Chris Sullivan	DE
75	Pio Sagapolutele	DT
76	William Roberts	G
78	Bruce Armstrong	T
80	Troy Brown	WR
81	Hason Graham	WR
82	Vincent Brisby	WR
83	Dietrich Jells	WR
84	Shawn Jefferson	WR
85	John Burke	TE
86	Mike Bartrum	TE
87	Ben Coates	TE
88	Terry Glenn	WR
90	Chad Eaton	DT
92	Ferric Collons	DE
95	Dwayne Sabb	LB
96	Mike Jones	DE
97	Mark Wheeler	DT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1997

SUPER BOWL XXXI

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
SUPERDOME

Patriots Starting Lineup

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
84	Shawn Jefferson . . . WR	92	Ferric Collons . . . . . LE
78	Bruce Armstrong . . LT	97	Mark Wheeler . . . . . LT
76	William Roberts . . . LG	75	Pio Sagapolutele . . . RT
64	Dave Wohlabaugh . . . C	55	Willie McGinest . . . . RE
71	Todd Rucci . . . . . RG	59	Todd Collins . . . . . LLB
68	Max Lane . . . . . RT	52	Ted Johnson . . . . MLB
87	Ben Coates. . . . . TE	95	Dwayne Sabb . . . . RLB
88	Terry Glenn . . . . . WR	24	Ty Law . . . . . LCB
11	Drew Bledsoe . . . . . QB	45	Otis Smith. . . . . RCB
28	Curtis Martin . . . . . RB	36	Lawyer Milloy. . . . . SS
41	Keith Byars . . . . . RB	32	Willie Clay . . . . . FS

LINEUPS

Packers Starting Lineup

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
86	Antonio Freeman . . WR	92	Reggie White . . . . . LE
64	Bruce Wilkerson . . . LT	71	Santana Dotson . . . . LT
73	Aaron Taylor . . . . . LG	93	Gilbert Brown . . . . . RT
52	Frank Winters C	96	Sean Jones . . . . . RE
63	Adam Timmerman . RG	59	Wayne Simmons . . LLB
72	Earl Dotson . . . . . RT	54	Ron Cox . . . . . MLB
89	Mark Chmura . . . . . TE	51	Brian Williams . . . RLB
84	Andre Rison . . . . . WR	21	Craig Newsome. . . LCB
4	Brett Favre . . . . . QB	33	Doug Evans. . . . . RCB
34	Edgar Bennett. . . . . RB	36	LeRoy Butler . . . . . SS
30	William Henderson . RB	41	Eugene Robinson . . . FS

Packers Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos	No.	Name	Pos
4	Brett Favre	QB	73	Aaron Taylor	G
7	Kyle Wachholtz	QB	77	John Michels	T
9	Jim McMahon	QB	80	Derrick Mayes	WR
13	Chris Jacke	K	81	Desmond Howard	WR
17	Craig Hentrich	P	82	Don Beebe	WR
18	Doug Pederson	QB	83	Jeff Thomason	TE
21	Craig Newsome	CB	84	Andre Rison	WR
25	Dorsey Levens	RB	85	Terry Mickens	WR
27	Calvin Jones	RB	86	Antonio Freeman	WR
28	Roderick Mullen	CB-S	88	Keith Jackson	TE
30	William Henderson	RB	89	Mark Chmura	TE
32	Travis Jervey	RB	90	Darius Holland	DT
33	Doug Evans	CB	91	Shannon Clavelle	DT
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	92	Reggie White	DE
36	LeRoy Butler	S	93	Gilbert Brown	DT
37	Tyrone Williams	CB	94	Bob Kuberski	DT
39	Mike Prior	S	95	Keith McKenzie	DE-LB
40	Chris Hayes	S	96	Sean Jones	DE
41	Eugene Robinson	S	99	Gabe Wilkins	DE
46	Michael Robinson	CB			
51	Brian Williams	LB			
52	Frank Winters	C			
54	Ron Cox	LB			
55	Bernardo Harris	LB			
56	Lamont Hollinquest	LB			
59	Wayne Simmons	LB			
62	Marco Rivera	G			
63	Adam Timmerman	G			
64	Bruce Wilkerson	T			
65	Lindsay Knapp	G			
67	Jeff Dellenbach	C			
68	Gary Brown	T-G			
71	Santana Dotson	DT			
72	Earl Dotson	T			

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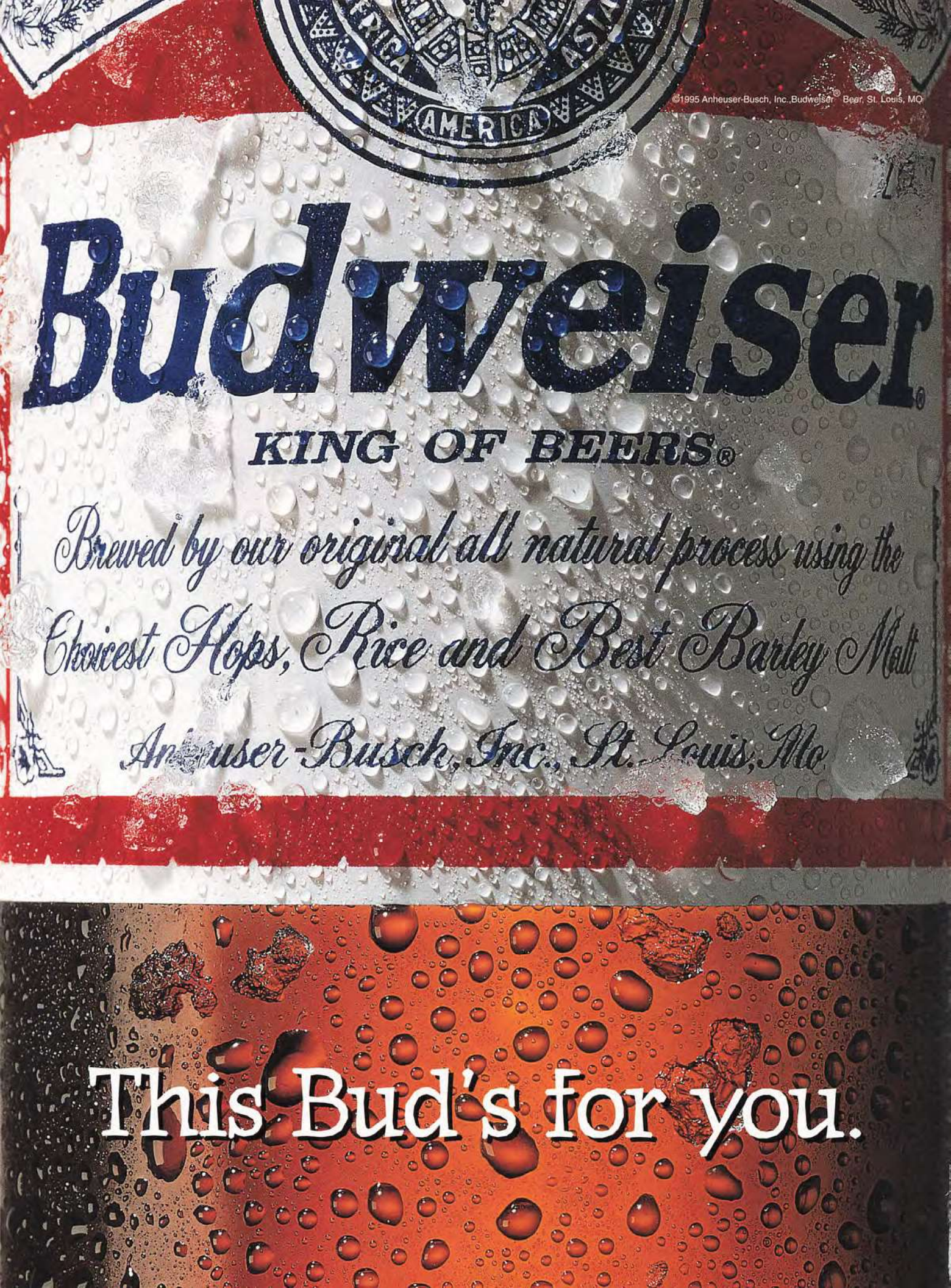
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CLUB DIRECTORY

Bill Parcells	Head Coach
Bill Belichick	Assistant Coach
Maurice Carthon	Assistant Coach
Romeo Crennel	Assistant Coach
Al Groh	Assistant Coach
Fred Hoaglin	Assistant Coach
Chris Palmer	Assistant Coach
Johnny Parker	Assistant Coach
Ray Perkins	Assistant Coach
Michael Pope	Assistant Coach
Dante Scarnecchia	Assistant Coach
Mike Sweatman	Assistant Coach
Charlie Weis	Assistant Coach
ADMINISTRATION	
Robert K. Kraft	Owner and Chief Executive Officer
Jonathan A. Kraft	Vice President/Owner's Representative
Andy Wasynczuk	Vice President/Business Operations
James Hausmann	Vice President/Finance
Daniel A. Kraft	Vice President of Marketing and Broadcast Sales
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS	
Bobby Grier	Director of Player Personnel
Andre Tippett	Director of Player Resources
Charlie Armey	Director of College Scouting
Bucko Kilroy	Scouting Consultant
Dave Uyrus	Assistant Director of Pro Scouting
Edwin Bailey	Personnel Scout
Robert Cegelski	Personnel Scout
Larry Cook	Personnel Scout
Chris Grier	Personnel Scout
Paul Pawlak	Personnel Scout
Mike Pollom	Personnel Scout
Ken Sternfeld	Personnel Scout
Joe Ziobro	Scouting Assistant
Nancy Meier	College and Pro Scouting Coordinator
Ron O'Neil	Head Trainer
Kirk Brumels	Assistant Trainer
Don Brocher	Equipment Manager
John Hillebrand	Assistant Equipment Manager
Ken Deininger	Video Director
Jimmy Dee	Assistant Video Director
CLUB PERSONNEL	
Kim Norton	Executive Assistant to the Owner
Joan Bishop	Administrative Assistant
Richard Miller	Player Comp. Analyst
Edie Myers	Stadium Operations
Ray Myers	Stadium Operations
Maryann Greaves, Eva Lang, Ann Thompson, Cathy Tobyne	Receptionists
Kathleen O'Neill	Administrative Assistant to Coaching Staff
Frank Mendes	Team Security
Bertram Zarins, M.D.	Team Physician
Dr. Armand Nicholi	Team Phychiatrist/Director of Substance Abuse Program
Joan Buchbinder	Nutritionist
Mike Nichols	Director of Ticket Operations
Ben Lentz	Assistant Director of Ticket Operations
Lynne Meterparel	Ticket Manager
Kate Delay	Sales Associate
Richard Karelitz	General Counsel
Marie Coukos	Legal Counsel
Peg Myers	Director of Human Resources
Joanne Nichols	Benefits/Insurance Manager
Jim Nolan	Controller
Susan Desrosiers, Maureen Doherty, Mike Rizzo	Accounting Assistants
John Levy	Corporate Sales Executive
Tracey Goulet	Marketing Services Manager
John Kelly, Bill Nelsen, David Pearlstein	Sales Associates
Caroline Jones	Marketing Assistant
Tracy Sormanti	Cheerleader Director
Carl Katzeff	Director of Information Technology (Rand-Whitney Group)
Michael Riu	Director of MIS
Dan Sullivan	Senior Programmer/Analyst
Robert Felice	Technical Support/Programmer
Don Lowery	Director of Public and Community Relations
Stacey James	Director of Media Relations
Dianne McCaffrey	Associate Director- N.E. Charitable Foundation
Barbara Rizzo	Public Relations Coordinator
Anthony Moretti, Jr.	Public Relations Associate
Marlon Toon	Public Relations Assistant
Tiffany Otis	Public Relations Intern
David Silverman	Team Photographer
Fred Kirsch	Patriots Football Weekly Editor-In-Chief
Jason Ricker	Patriots Football Weekly Circulation Manager
Chris Thomas	Merchandise Programs Manager
Mike Perriello	Assistant Pro Shop Manager
Dan Murphy	Director of Stadium Operations
Bernie Reinhart	Building Services Coordinator
Jeff Davenport	Concessions Manager
Al Labelle	Catering Manager
Michele Kelley	Game Operations
Pierre Landry	Field Superintendent
Dennis Brolin	Assistant Field Superintendent
Al Parrillo	Stadium Parking
Mike Titus	Building Services Supervisor
Bob Denham, Mike Lacroix, Rick Moore, Bob Ryder, Dale Vose	Stadium Services
John Barry	Security Director

PATRIOTS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	295	9/7/65	10	Louisville
86	Bartrum, Mike	TE	6-5	245	6/23/70	3	Marshall
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	2/14/72	4	Washington State
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6-2	188	1/25/71	4	Northeast Louisiana
30	Brown, Corwin	S	6-1	200	4/25/70	4	Michigan
80	Brown, Troy	WR	5-9	190	7/2/71	4	Marshall
54	Bruschi, Tedy	LB	6-1	245	6/9/73	R	Arizona
85	Burke, John	TE	6-3	248	9/7/71	3	Virginia Tech
41	Byars, Keith	RB-TE	6-1	255	10/14/63	11	Ohio State
32	Clay, Willie	S	5-10	198	9/5/70	5	Georgia Tech
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6-5	245	8/16/69	6	Livingstone College
59	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	5/27/70	4	Carson-Newman
92	Collons, Ferric	DE	6-6	285	12/4/69	3	California
90	Eaton, Chad	DT	6-5	292	4/4/72	1	Washington State
67	Gisler, Mike	C	6-4	300	8/26/69	4	Houston
88	Glenn, Terry	WR	5-10	184	7/23/74	R	Ohio State
81	Graham, Hason	WR	5-10	176	3/21/71	2	Georgia
35	Grier, Marrio	RB	5-10	225	12/5/71	R	Tennessee-Chattanooga
26	Henderson, Jerome	CB	5-10	188	8/8/69	6	Clemson
31	Hitchcock, Jimmy	CB	5-10	188	11/9/71	2	North Carolina
63	Irwin, Heath	G	6-4	273	6/27/73	R	Colorado
84	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	180	2/22/69	6	Central Florida
83	Jells, Dietrich	WR	5-10	186	4/11/72	R	Pittsburgh
52	Johnson, Ted	LB	6-3	240	12/4/72	2	Colorado
96	Jones, Mike	DE	6-4	295	8/25/69	6	North Carolina State
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	1/6/66	8	Iowa
68	Lane, Max	T	6-6	305	2/22/71	3	Navy
24	Law, Ty	CB	5-11	196	2/10/74	2	Michigan
15	Lucas, Ray	WR	6-2	201	8/6/72	R	Rutgers
28	Martin, Curtis	RB	5-11	203	5/1/73	2	Pittsburgh
55	McGinest, Willie	DE	6-5	255	12/11/71	3	Southern California
27	McGruder, Mike	CB	5-11	184	5/6/64	7	Kent State
22	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	195	4/30/66	8	Towson State
36	Milloy, Lawyer	S	6-0	208	11/14/73	R	Washington
58	Moore, Marty	LB	6-1	244	3/19/71	3	Kentucky
48	Purnell, Lovett	TE	6-2	250	4/7/72	R	West Virginia
23	Ray, Terry	S	6-1	205	10/12/69	5	Oklahoma
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	1/19/65	10	Washington State
62	Richards, Dave	T	6-5	315	4/11/66	9	UCLA
76	Roberts, William	G	6-5	298	8/5/62	13	Ohio State
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6-5	291	7/14/70	4	Penn State
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	10/9/69	5	New Hampshire
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	DT	6-6	297	11/28/69	6	San Diego State
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6-5	245	1/30/71	4	Virginia
45	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	190	10/22/65	7	Missouri
74	Sullivan, Chris	DE	6-4	279	3/14/73	R	Boston College
19	Tupa, Tom	P-QB	6-4	220	2/6/66	8	Ohio State
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	200	12/28/72	R	South Dakota State
97	Wheeler, Mark	DT	6-3	285	4/1/70	5	Texas A&M
25	Whigham, Larry	S	6-2	205	6/23/72	3	Northeast Louisiana
64	Wohlabaugh, Dave	C	6-3	292	4/13/72	2	Syracuse
72	Wyman, Devin	DT	6-7	307	8/29/73	R	Kentucky State
16	Zolak, Scott	QB	6-5	235	12/13/67	6	Maryland

DEPTH CHART

Offense							
WR	—	84	Shawn Jefferson	82	Vincent Brisby	83	Dietrich Jells
LT	—	78	Bruce Armstrong	62	Dave Richards		
LG	—	76	William Roberts	63	Heath Irwin		
C	—	64	Dave Wohlabaugh	67	Mike Gisler		
RG	—	71	Todd Rucci	61	Bob Kratch		
RT	—	68	Max Lane	62	Dave Richards		
TE	—	87	Ben Coates	85	John Burke	48	Lovett Purnell
WR	—	88	Terry Glenn	81	Hason Graham	80	Troy Brown
QB	—	11	Drew Bledsoe	16	Scott Zolak	19	Tom Tupa
RB	—	28	Curtis Martin	22	David Meggett	35	Marrio Grier
RB	—	41	Keith Byars	35	Marrio Grier		
Defense							
LE	—	92	Ferric Collons	96	Mike Jones		
LT	—	97	Mark Wheeler	90	Chad Eaton		
RT	—	75	Pio Sagapolutele	72	Devin Wyman		
RE	—	55	Willie McGinest	74	Chris Sullivan		
LLB	—	59	Todd Collins	54	Tedy Bruschi		
MLB	—	52	Ted Johnson	58	Marty Moore		
RLB	—	95	Dwayne Sabb	53	Chris Slade		
LCB	—	24	Ty Law	27	Mike McGruder	26	Jerome Henderson
RCB	—	45	Otis Smith	21	Ricky Reynolds	31	Jimmy Hitchcock
SS	—	36	Lawyer Milloy	23	Terry Ray	25	Larry Whigham
FS	—	32	Willie Clay	30	Corwin Brown		
Specialists							
P	—	19	Tom Tupa	4	Adam Vinatieri		
K	—	4	Adam Vinatieri	19	Tom Tupa		
KO	—	4	Adam Vinatieri	19	Tom Tupa		
H	—	19	Tom Tupa	16	Scott Zolak		
PR	—	22	David Meggett	80	Troy Brown		
KR	—	22	David Meggett	80	Troy Brown		
PC	—	86	Mike Bartrum	67	Mike Gisler		
KC	—	86	Mike Bartrum	67	Mike Gisler		

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President and Chief Executive Officer

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Ron Wolf
Executive Vice President/ General Manager

Mike Holmgren
Head Coach

4 Brett Favre
Quarterback

9 Jim McMahon
Quarterback

13 Chris Jacke
Kicker

16 Robert Carpenter
Wide Receiver

17 Craig Hentrich
Punter

18 Doug Pederson
Quarterback

21 Craig Newsome
Cornerback

23 Matthew Dorsett
Cornerback

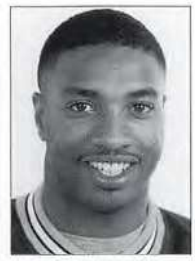
25 Dorsey Levens
Running Back

27 Calvin Jones
Running Back

28 Roderick Mullen
Cornerback/Safety

30 William Henderson
Running Back

32 Travis Jervey
Running Back



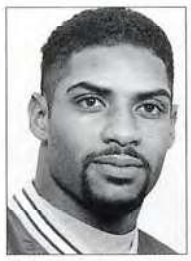
33 Doug Evans
Cornerback

34 Edgar Bennett
Running Back

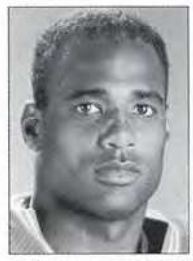
36 LeRoy Butler
Safety

37 Tyrone Williams
Cornerback

39 Mike Prior
Safety



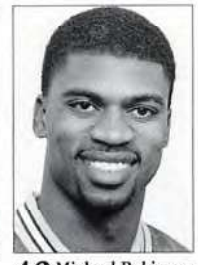
40 Chris Hayes
Safety



41 Eugene Robinson
Safety

43 James Bostic
Running Back

44 Chris Darkins
Running Back



46 Michael Robinson
Cornerback

51 Brian Williams
Linebacker

52 Frank Winters
Center

53 George Koonce
Linebacker

54 Ron Cox
Linebacker

55 Bernardo Harris
Linebacker

56 Lamont Hollinquest
Linebacker

58 Mike Flanagan
Center

59 Wayne Simmons
Linebacker

62 Marco Rivera
Guard

63 Adam Timmerman
Guard

64 Bruce Wilkerson
Tackle

65 Lindsay Knapp
Guard

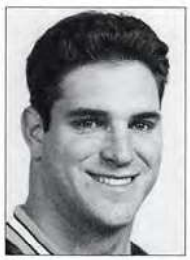
67 Jeff Dellenbach
Center

68 Gary Brown
Tackle/Guard

71 Santana Dotson
Defensive Tackle

72 Earl Dotson
Tackle

73 Aaron Taylor
Guard



77 John Michels
Tackle

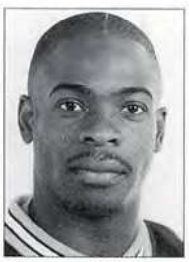
80 Derrick Mayes
Wide Receiver

81 Desmond Howard
Wide Receiver/ Kick Returner

82 Don Beebe
Wide Receiver

83 Jeff Thomason
Tight End

84 Andre Rison
Wide Receiver



85 Terry Mickens
Wide Receiver

86 Antonio Freeman
Wide Receiver

87 Robert Brooks
Wide Receiver

88 Keith Jackson
Tight End

89 Mark Chmura
Tight End

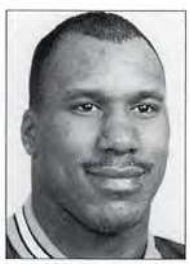
90 Darius Holland
Defensive Tackle

91 Shannon Clavelle
Defensive Tackle

92 Reggie White
Defensive End

93 Gilbert Brown
Defensive Tackle

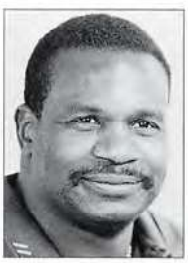
94 Bob Kuberski
Defensive Tackle



95 Keith McKenzie
Defensive End/ Linebacker

96 Sean Jones
Defensive End

98 Gabe Wilkins
Defensive End



Larry Brooks
Assistant Coach

Nolan Cromwell
Assistant Coach

Gil Haskell
Assistant Coach

Johnny Holland
Assistant Coach

Kent Johnston
Assistant Coach

Sherman Lewis
Assistant Coach

Jim Lind
Assistant Coach

Tom Lovat
Assistant Coach

Marty Mornhinweg
Assistant Coach

Andy Reid
Assistant Coach

Gary Reynolds
Assistant Coach

Fritz Shurmur
Assistant Coach

Harry Sydney
Assistant Coach

Bob Valesente
Assistant Coach

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new england patriots

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Owner and Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan A. Kraft
Vice President/ Owner's Representative

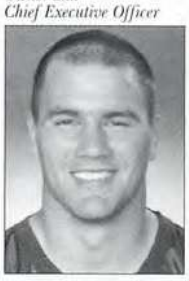
Andy Wasynczuk
Vice President/ Business Operations

Bobby Grier
Director of Player Personnel

James Hausmann
Vice President of Finance

Daniel A. Kraft
Vice President of Marketing and Broadcast Sales

Bill Parcells
Head Coach



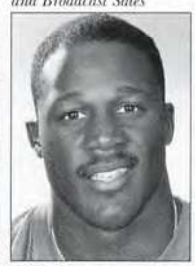
4 Adam Vinatieri
Kicker

11 Drew Bledsoe
Quarterback

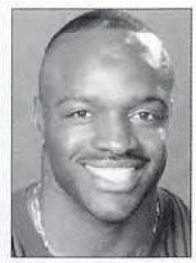
15 Ray Lucas
Wide Receiver

16 Scott Zolak
Quarterback

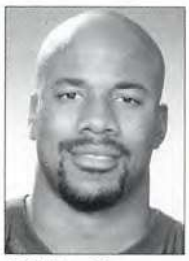
19 Tom Tupa
Punter/Quarterback



21 Ricky Reynolds
Cornerback



22 David Meggett
Running Back



23 Terry Ray
Safety

24 Ty Law
Cornerback

25 Larry Whigham
Safety

26 Jerome Henderson
Cornerback

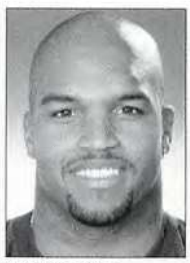
27 Mike McGruder
Cornerback

28 Curtis Martin
Running Back

30 Corwin Brown
Safety

31 Jimmy Hitchcock
Cornerback

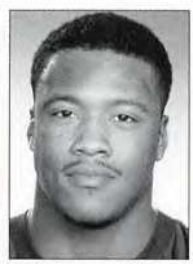
32 Willie Clay
Safety



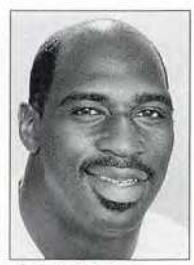
33 Sam Gash
Running Back

34 Rupert Grant
Running Back

35 Marrio Grier
Running Back

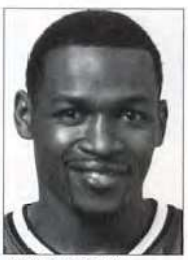


36 Lawyer Milloy
Safety



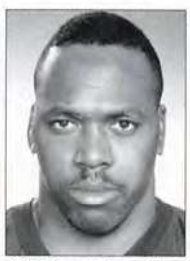
41 Keith Byars
Running Back/ Tight End

43 Vernon Lewis
Cornerback

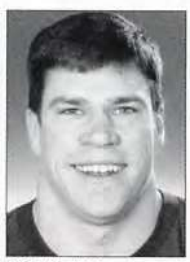


45 Otis Smith
Cornerback

46 Kantroy Barber
Running Back



48 Lovett Purnell
Tight End

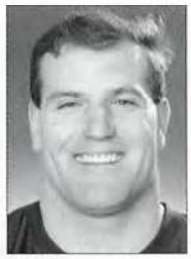


52 Ted Johnson
Linebacker

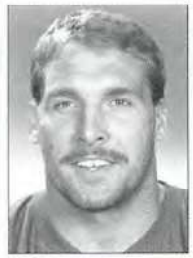
53 Chris Slade
Linebacker

54 Tedy Bruschi
Linebacker

55 Willie McGinest
Defensive End



58 Marty Moore
Linebacker

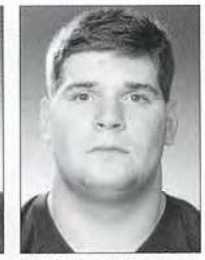


59 Todd Collins
Linebacker

61 Bob Kratch
Guard

62 Dave Richards
Tackle

63 Heath Irwin
Guard

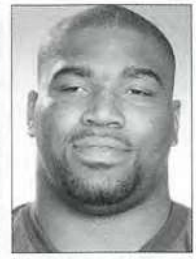


64 Dave Wohlabaugh
Center

67 Mike Gisler
Center

68 Max Lane
Tackle

71 Todd Rucci
Guard



72 Devin Wyman
Defensive Tackle

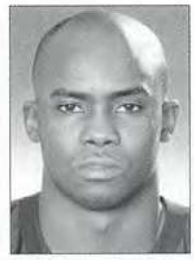
74 Chris Sullivan
Defensive End

75 Pio Sagapolutele
Defensive Tackle

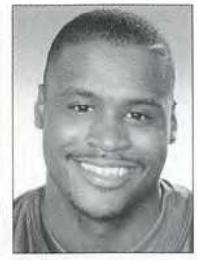
76 William Roberts
Guard

78 Bruce Armstrong
Tackle

80 Troy Brown
Wide Receiver

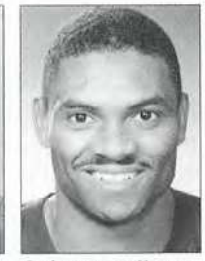


81 Hason Graham
Wide Receiver

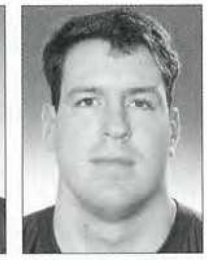


82 Vincent Brisby
Wide Receiver

83 Dietrich Jells
Wide Receiver

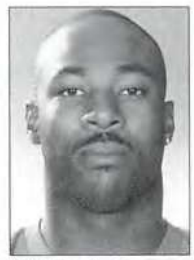


84 Shawn Jefferson
Wide Receiver



85 John Burke
Tight End

86 Mike Bartrum
Tight End



87 Ben Coates
Tight End

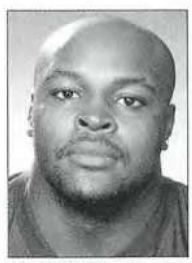
88 Terry Glenn
Wide Receiver

90 Chad Eaton
Defensive Tackle

92 Ferric Collons
Defensive Tackle

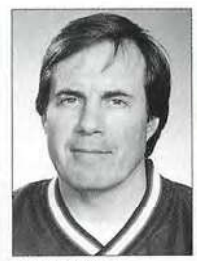
93 Monty Brown
Linebacker

95 Dwayne Sabb
Linebacker



96 Mike Jones
Defensive End

97 Mark Wheeler
Defensive Tackle



Bill Belichick
Assistant Coach

Maurice Carthon
Assistant Coach

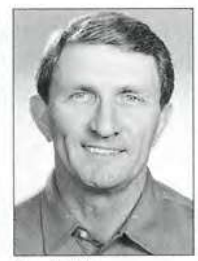
Romeo Crennel
Assistant Coach

Al Groh
Assistant Coach

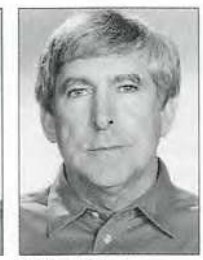
Fred Hoaglin
Assistant Coach

Chris Palmer
Assistant Coach

Johnny Parker
Assistant Coach

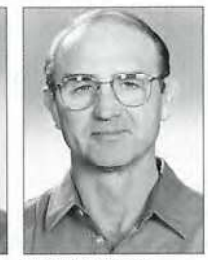


Ray Perkins
Assistant Coach



Michael Pope
Assistant Coach

Dante Scarnecchia
Assistant Coach



Mike Sweatman
Assistant Coach

Charlie Weis
Assistant Coach

OWNERS

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Robert Kraft

New England Patriots

When Robert K. Kraft bought the New England Patriots on January 21, 1994, he not only fulfilled a lifelong dream, but renewed the faith of the Patriots' hopeful as well.

Despite a heavy snowstorm, fans waited overnight to have the first opportunity to purchase season tickets. The Patriots sold 5,958 season tickets on the first day of Kraft's regime, shattering the previous mark of 979. Three years later, the Patriots are the media darlings of the New England area, returning to the Super Bowl for the first time in 11 years as they make their second appearance in franchise history.

Kraft, who held Patriots season tickets since 1972, quickly made changes to Foxboro Stadium to make the facility more fan friendly. Among the many amenities added are a Pro Shop, a fan festival area at both ends of the stadium, a smoke-free environment, and improved stadium vending. The Patriots have sold out all 25 home games since Kraft's arrival.

And Kraft has had a hand in improving the club on the field as well. The Patriots have advanced to the playoffs twice in the past three seasons, after having missed the postseason the previous seven years before Kraft .

Kraft matriculated at Columbia University, where he played football. He earned a master's degree in business administration at the Harvard School of Business.

He began his business career with the Rand-Whitney Group, Inc. He later acquired Rand-Whitney, while also developing International Forest Products. Combined, the two companies make Kraft the head of one of the largest privately held paper and packaging companies in the United States. Kraft also is president of the International Forest Products Group of Companies, which are spread throughout five continents. He owns Foxboro Stadium and the newly formed New England Revolution franchise of Major League Soccer.

A member of the executive committee of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Kraft and his wife Myra are involved in numerous civic and charitable endeavors. The Kraft's have four sons, Jonathan, Daniel, Josh, and David. Jonathan is a vice president and owner's representative of the Patriots and Daniel is vice president of marketing and broadcast sales.

Robert Harlan

Green Bay Packers

JAMES V. BIEVER

Although the Green Bay Packers are the NFL's only publicly owned franchise, they still need someone to direct the team's fortunes. For the past eight years, Robert Harlan has performed brilliantly as the president and chief executive officer of the Packers.

During Harlan's tenure, Green Bay has posted six winning seasons, made four playoff appearances, won or shared three division crowns, and made its first Super Bowl appearance since the 1967 season.

Much of Green Bay's success can be attributed to Harlan's hiring of Ron Wolf as general manager in November, 1991. Two months later, Wolf hired former 49ers offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren as head coach and was named NFL executive of the year. Wolf also was instrumental in the 1992 trade that brought Brett Favre to the Packers and in the free-agent signing of Reggie White in 1993.

Harlan, who succeeded Judge Robert J. Parins, is the ninth president in Green Bay's 77-year history. The 60-year-old native of Iowa has directed some major changes as the Packers' chief executive officer, including an $8 million renovation of Lambeau Field in 1990, and the building of the Don Hutson Center, Green Bay's $4.7 million indoor practice facility.

Born September 9, 1936, Harlan began his sports career as the sports information director for his alma mater, Marquette University, in 1959. The Marquette journalism major spent six years at the university before joining major league baseball's St. Louis Cardinals as director of community relations. After three-and-a-half years with the Cardinals, Harlan became the Packers' assistant general manager in 1971.

He is the only Packers president to have been named to the post after working for the organization. Harlan was named Green Bay's corporate general manager in 1975, corporate assistant to the president in 1981, and executive vice president of administration in 1988.

Harlan and his wife Madeline have three sons—Kevin, a play-by-play announcer for the Minnesota Timberwolves and on NFL telecasts for FOX Sports; Bryan, the director of public relations for the Chicago Bears; and Michael, an account executive for sports marketing and sales with the Marcus Corporation.

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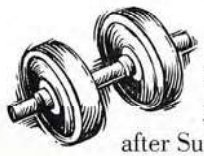

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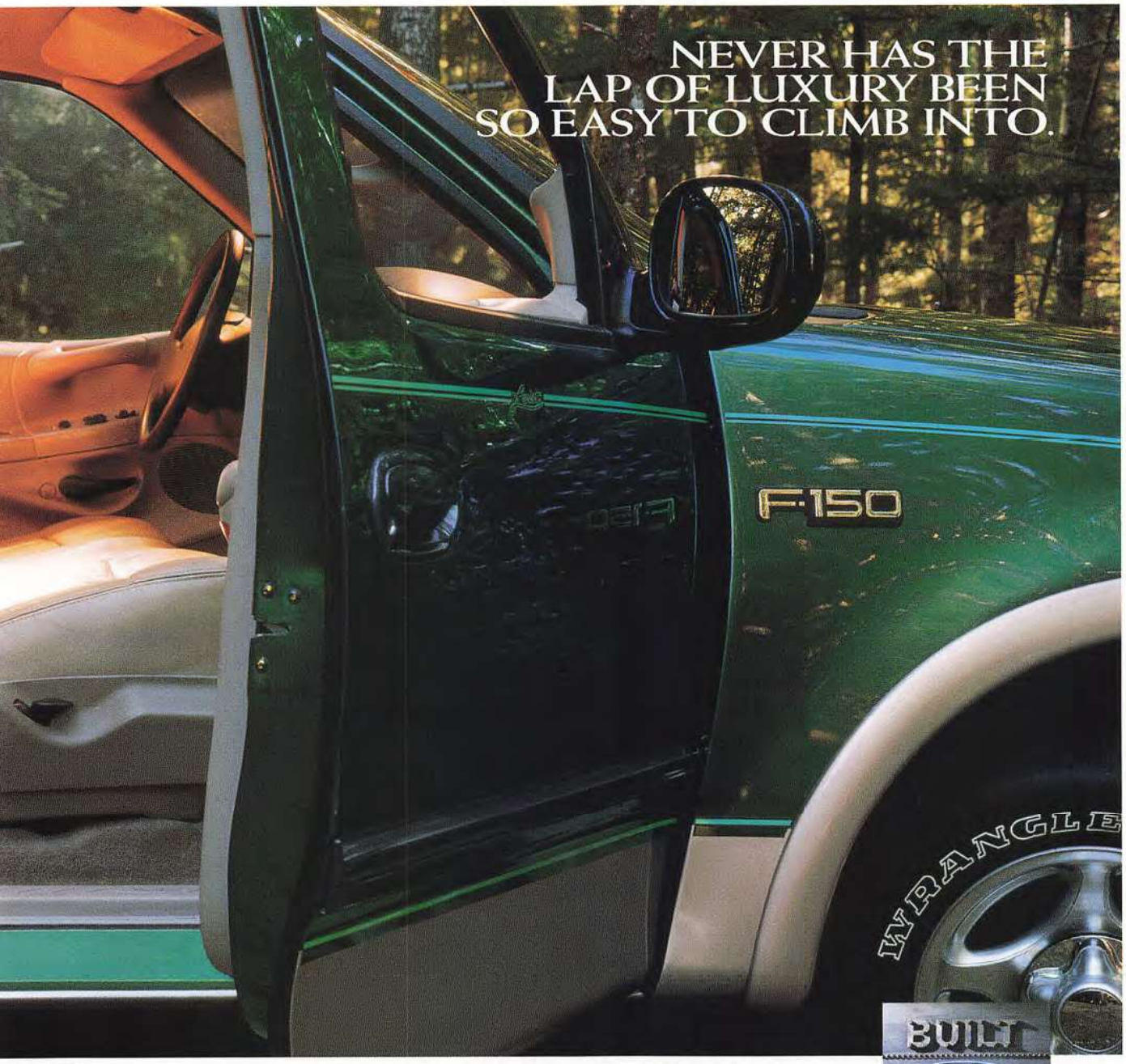

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Reset Play Clock-25 seconds

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game, Illegal Substitution, or Excess Time Out

No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Face Mask

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Illegal Shift

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist, Chop Blocks

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Substitution or Too Many Men on the Field

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

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Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

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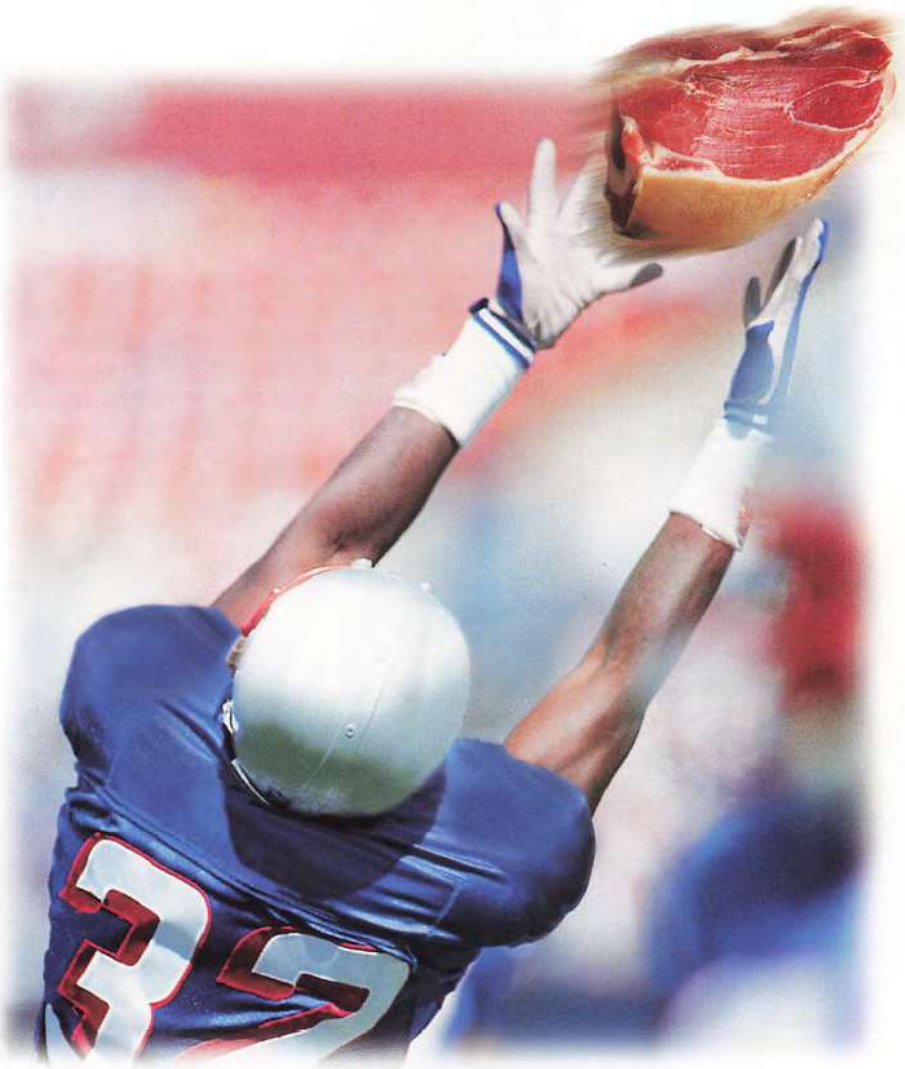

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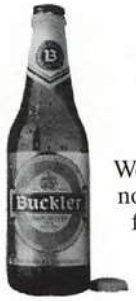

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individual records

SCORING

Most Points, Career
42 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-td)
30 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games, (5-td)
24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-td)

Most Points, Game
18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-p)
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games (5-r)
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-r)

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p); vs. San Diego XXIX (3-p)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (1-r, 2-p)

Most Field Goals, Career
5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By seven players

Longest Field Goal
54 Steve Christie, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career
101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
70 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game
38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
33 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, XVIII

Most Yards Gained, Career
354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
289 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII

Longest Run From Scrimmage
74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games
3 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 2 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
2 By 10 players

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career
145 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game
58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII

Most Passes Completed, Career
83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
81 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career
1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion
80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 David Woodley (to Cefalo), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdown Passes, Career
11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game
6 Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Attempts, Without Interception, Game
36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
35 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career
7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games
John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game
4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career
28 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
27 Andre Reed, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Receptions, Game
11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
Andre Hastings, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XXX

Most Yards Gained, Career
512 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception
80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 Jimmy Cefalo (from Woodley), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX; vs. Denver, XXIV
2 By nine players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career
3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
2 By nine players

Most Interceptions By, Game
3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By seven players

Most Yards Gained, Career
77 Larry Brown, Dallas, 3 games
75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
77 Larry Brown, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XXX
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
63 Jake Scott, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Longest Return
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game
1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career
17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game
9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
7 By eight players

Longest Punt
63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)
46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)
48.8 Bryan Wagner, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (4-195)
48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career
6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game
John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
5 Dana McLemore, San Francisco, 1 game

Most Punt Returns, Game
6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game
3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career
94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games
52 Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
52 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Return
45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games (6-94)
10.8 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game (4-43)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
12.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-38)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career
10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Kickoff Returns, Game
8 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Career
283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Franicsco, XXIX
190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII

Longest Return
98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (TD)
93 Stanford Jennings, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
35.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)
30.5 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game (8-244)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
32.4 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (5-162)

team records

SCORING

Most Points, Game
55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
52 Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Fewest Points, Game
3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game
75 San Francisco (49) vs. San Diego (26), XXIX
69 Dallas (52) vs. Buffalo (17), XXVII

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game
45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half
1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half
1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game
31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX

Fewest First Downs, Game
9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game
50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game
602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game
57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game
9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game
81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game
49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
51 San Diego (19) vs. San Francisco (32), XXIX

Most Yards Gained, Game
280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
159 Dallas (56) vs. Pittsburgh (103), XXX
168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game
59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
55 San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game
7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
93 San Diego (55) vs. San Francisco (38), XXIX
92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game
4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
52 San Diego (27) vs. San Francisco (25), XXIX

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game
341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
603 San Francisco (316) vs. San Diego (287), XXIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS

(Minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas	3	80	56	70.0	689	8.61	5	6.3	45t	1	1.3	111.9
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	4	145	81	56.0	856	5.90	2	1.4	40	7	4.8	57.7
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
Stan Humphries, San Diego	1	49	24	48.9	275	5.61	1	2.0	33	2	4.1	56.1
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	1	49	28	57.1	239	4.87	1	2.0	19	3	6.1	51.3
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7

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CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	3	289	56	5.1	31	5
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	204	52	3.9	31t	4
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	145	30	4.8	14	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	3	28	512	18.2	44t	7
Andre Reed, Buffalo	4	27	323	12.0	40	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	20	144	7.2	24	0
Jay Novacek, Dallas	3	17	148	8.7	25	3
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Michael Irvin, Dallas	3	16	256	16.0	25	2
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Don Beebe, Buffalo	3	12	171	14.2	43	2
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	12	77	6.4	19	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2

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Vanessa Vizcaino dreams of becoming the first doctor in her family and helping the people in her south Florida community. Her family continues to struggle financially; her father is the sole provider for their family of six, including two grandparents. Vanessa has been able to pursue her higher educational goals through financial assistance by the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Through its support of this scholarship fund, NFL Charities is helping to make Vanessa's dreams a reality.

Founded in 1973, NFL Charities has allocated more than $21 million in recent years to promote education, medical research, and physical fitness.

As the National Football League concludes its seventy-seventh season, the NFL clubs are proud of the role that NFL Charities has played in hundreds of communities across the nation.

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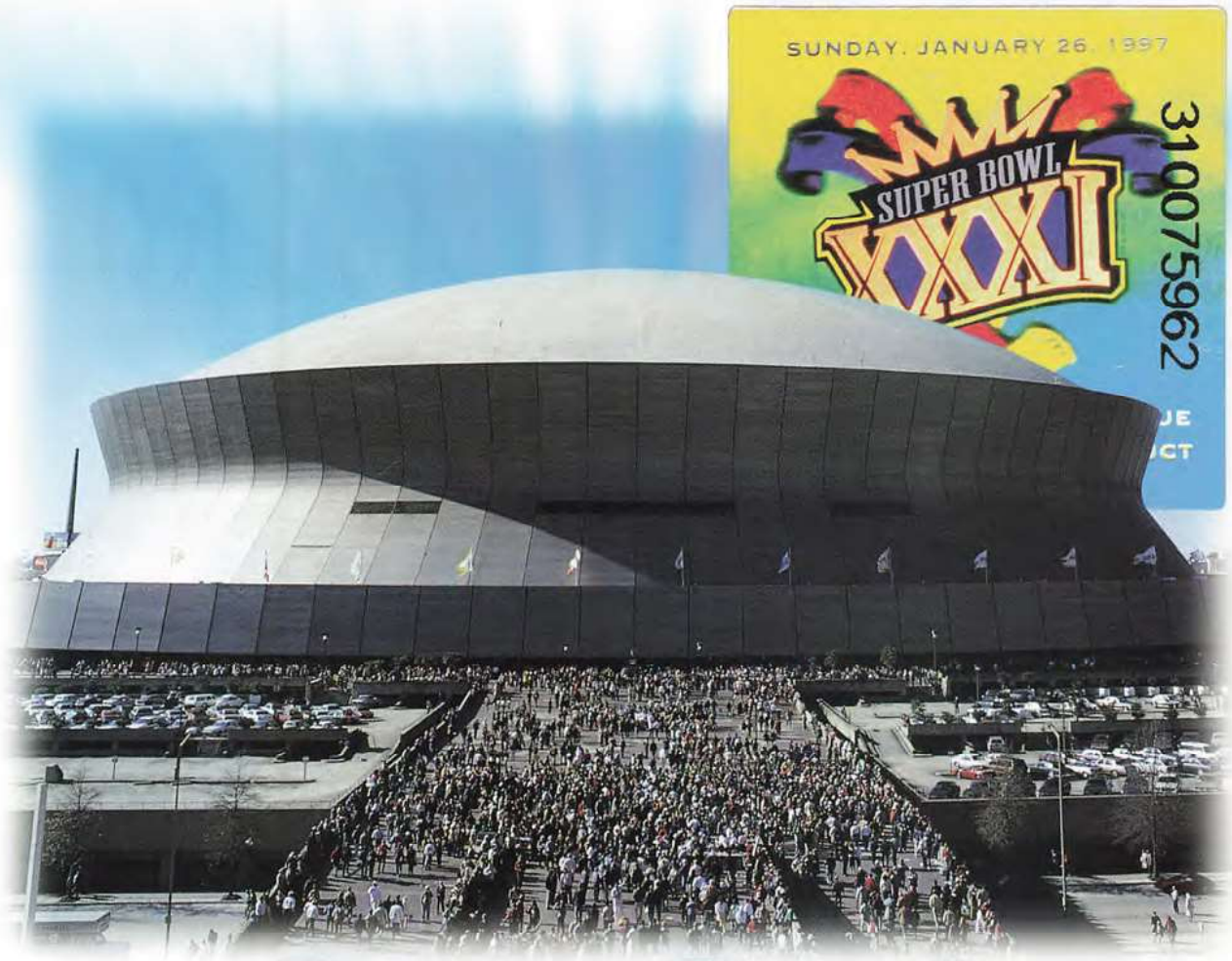

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Photograph: Perry McIntyre, Jr.

cowboys boast a handful of rings

Even if it wasn't the Dallas Cowboys' most dominating performance—the Pittsburgh Steelers ran 34 more plays and collected 10 more first downs—Super Bowl XXX was a special chapter in the club's history.

A 27-17 victory at Sun Devil Stadium—the Cowboys' third Super Bowl triumph in four years—gave Dallas its fifth Vince Lombardi Trophy. Only the San Francisco 49ers have as many.

Turnovers were the key in a game in which all other statistical advantages belonged to the losers. Pittsburgh won the yardage battle 310-254 and controlled possession for 33 minutes 49 seconds. But the Cowboys, guilty of no turnovers, made the most of 2 interceptions by cornerback Larry Brown, chosen the game's most valuable player.

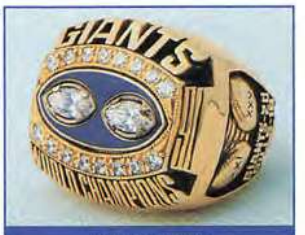
Dallas clung to a 13-7 lead in the third quarter when Brown intercepted a Neil O'Donnell pass and returned it 44 yards to the Steelers' 18. Two plays later, Emmitt Smith scored on a 1-yard plunge, and gave Dallas a 20-7 cushion.

The Steelers trailed only 20-17 when Brown struck in the fourth quarter. His interception and return to the Steelers' 6 set up the game-clinching touchdown.

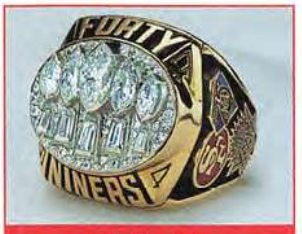
XXX MVP: *Dallas cornerback Larry Brown intercepted 2 passes to win most-valuable-player honors in Super Bowl XXX.*

ILLUSTRATION BY MERV CORNING

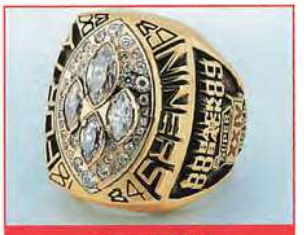
SUPER BOWL XXX
January 28, 1996
Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Arizona
DALLAS 27
PITTSBURGH 17
MVP: Larry Brown, CB, Dallas



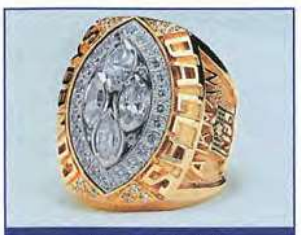
SUPER BOWL XXV
January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
N. Y. GIANTS 20
BUFFALO 19
MVP: Ottis Anderson, RB, New York



SUPER BOWL XXIX
January 29, 1995
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 49
SAN DIEGO 26
MVP: Steve Young, QB, San Francisco



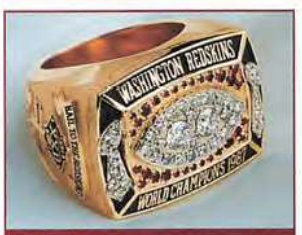
SUPER BOWL XXIV
January 28, 1990
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
SAN FRANCISCO 55
DENVER 10
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco



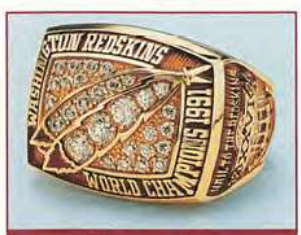
SUPER BOWL XXVIII
January 30, 1994
Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Georgia
DALLAS 30
BUFFALO 13
MVP: Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas

SUPER BOWL XXIII
January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 20
CINCINNATI 16
MVP: Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco

SUPER BOWL XXVII
January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
DALLAS 52
BUFFALO 17
MVP: Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas



SUPER BOWL XXII
January 31, 1988
San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego
WASHINGTON 42
DENVER 10
MVP: Doug Williams, QB, Washington



SUPER BOWL XXVI
January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
WASHINGTON 37
BUFFALO 24
MVP: Mark Rypien, QB, Washington

SUPER BOWL XXI
January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
N.Y. GIANTS 39
DENVER 20
MVP: Phil Simms, QB, New York

super bowl review: the teams, scores, facts & rings

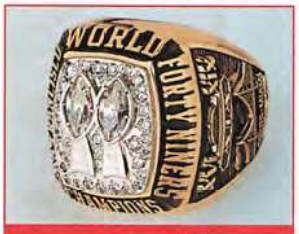
super bowl review: the teams, scores, facts & rings

SUPER BOWL XX
January 26, 1986
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
CHICAGO 46
NEW ENGLAND 10
MVP: Richard Dent, DE, Chicago

SUPER BOWL XV
January 25, 1981
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
OAKLAND 27
PHILADELPHIA 10
MVP: Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland

SUPER BOWL X
January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 21
DALLAS 17
MVP: Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh

SUPER BOWL V
January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
BALTIMORE 16
DALLAS 13
MVP: Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas

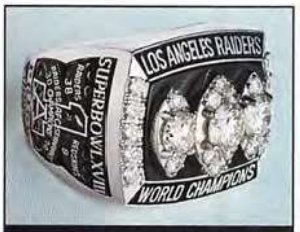


SUPER BOWL XIX
January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, Stanford, California
SAN FRANCISCO 38
MIAMI 16
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

SUPER BOWL XIV
January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
PITTSBURGH 31
LOS ANGELES 19
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

SUPER BOWL IX
January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
PITTSBURGH 16
MINNESOTA 6
MVP: Franco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh

SUPER BOWL IV
January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
KANSAS CITY 23
MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City



SUPER BOWL XVIII
January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
L.A. RAIDERS 38
WASHINGTON 9
MVP: Marcus Allen, RB, Los Angeles

SUPER BOWL XIII
January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 35
DALLAS 31
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

SUPER BOWL VIII
January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas
MIAMI 24
MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Larry Csonka, RB, Miami

SUPER BOWL III
January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
N.Y. JETS 16
BALTIMORE 7
MVP: Joe Namath, QB, New York

SUPER BOWL XVII
January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
WASHINGTON 27
MIAMI 17
MVP: John Riggins, RB, Washington

SUPER BOWL XII
January 15, 1978
Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 27
DENVER 10
MVP: Randy White, DT, Dallas and Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas

SUPER BOWL VII
January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
MIAMI 14
WASHINGTON 7
MVP: Jake Scott, S, Miami

SUPER BOWL II
January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
GREEN BAY 33
OAKLAND 14
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

SUPER BOWL XVI
January 24, 1982
Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan
SAN FRANCISCO 26
CINCINNATI 21
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

SUPER BOWL XI
January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
OAKLAND 32
MINNESOTA 14
MVP: Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland

SUPER BOWL VI
January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 24
MIAMI 3
MVP: Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas

SUPER BOWL I
January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
GREEN BAY 35
KANSAS CITY 10
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

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My wife. I made her a pair of earrings shaped like the Super Bowl Trophy. I know she'll wear 'em every day.

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a tribute to the commissioner

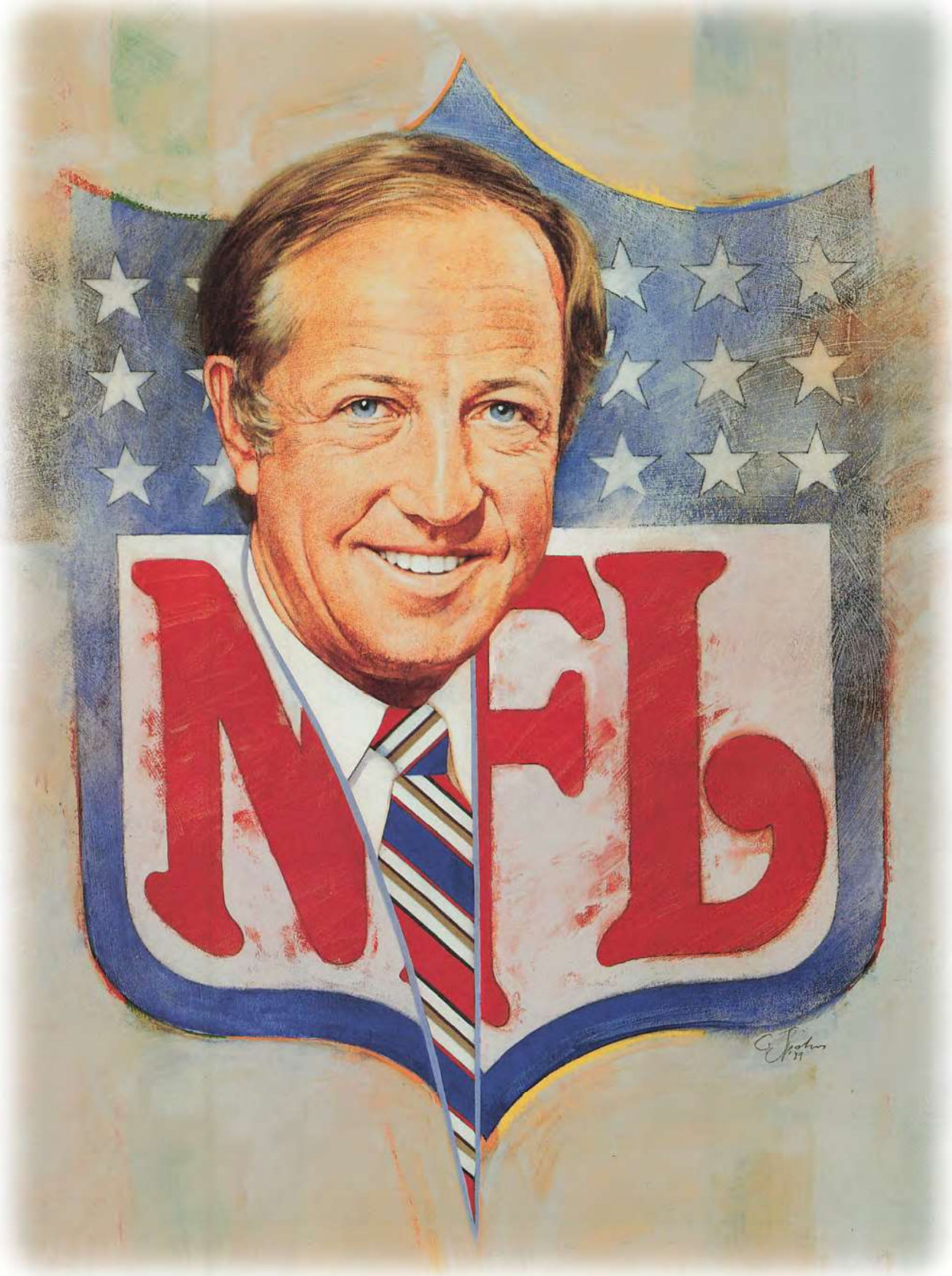


ILLUSTRATION BY CLIFF SPOHN

PETE

In a game of follow the leader, Pete Rozelle was ever the leader and we were always the happy followers. He ruled the National Football League for 29 years with a strong, but gentle touch—former Cowboys owner Clint Murchison, Jr., once said that Rozelle "had milk toast all over his high hand."

The man some said was born to be commissioner was elected to the job in January, 1960, after nine days and 23 ballots to find a successor to Bert Bell, who had died a few months before.

Rozelle was 33 years old and looked younger, and his name was in no one's whispers about who might get the job. He was the general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, but he was a veritable kitten in a lion's den that included George Halas, Paul Brown, Art Rooney, George Preston Marshall, Dan Reeves, and Wellington Mara.

It was Brown who asked him to leave the meeting room before the twenty-third ballot. Rozelle spent the next hour in the men's room, where he nervously washed his hands repeatedly. When Brown and Mara brought him back into the general session and he was told the job was his he said, "One thing's for sure: I come into this job with clean hands."

He meant that as a joke, of course, but it was true. Honesty was his lifelong policy. His exterior was stainless steel, not teflon.

VIC STEIN

And he always had one mandate: the overall good of the game. When Paul Tagliabue replaced him as commissioner in 1989, Rozelle's first words of advice were, "Never forget that this game belongs to the fans."

No league—and few organizations of any kind—ever had a more creative, more entrepreneurial leader.

There were 12 teams in the NFL when he was given the job. There were 28 when he retired, and he had laid the groundwork for the twenty-ninth and thirtieth franchises.

The value of an NFL franchise in 1960 was about $2 million. It's somewhere in the $150-250 million range today.

There was no league-wide television contract in 1960. Rozelle changed that—and brought revenue sharing to the sports table for the first time—when he made a two-year deal with CBS worth $9.3 million in 1962. The NFL currently is in the middle of a four-year television package worth a combined total of more than $4 billion.

Rozelle brought revenue sharing and strong image control to the league by founding both NFL Properties and NFL Films in 1963. He started NFL Charities in 1973, and the NFL has distributed more than $20 million to charities nationwide.

In 1960, baseball clearly was our national pastime. Rozelle made pro football our national passion. Nine of the 10 highest-rated sports programs of all time are Super Bowls (and seven of the 10 most-watched programs of any kind). *Monday Night Football*, which he began in 1970, ranks behind only *60 Minutes* in longevity among television shows today. Ratings of regular-season NFL games often eclipse the playoff games of other major sports. The NFL, under Rozelle, attained almost inconceivable popularity—today it sells 10 million more game tickets than it did 35 years ago.

Rozelle inherited a black-and-white game that was played in a dozen stadiums with only a couple of local television contracts and turned it into a full-color extravaganza played in mostly gleaming venues with a television presence that dominates our entertainment culture.

He died on December 6—seven weeks before the thirty-first Super Bowl, the game he founded—of a brain tumor, at his home in Rancho Santa Fe, California. He is survived by his wife Carrie, his daughter Anne Marie, and two grandchildren.

The game survives him as well, bigger and stronger than ever. The banner headline in the *Los Angeles Times* the day after he left us said it all:

"NFL Loses Architect."

—John Wiebusch

On the following pages are the memories of 19 men who knew Pete Rozelle. Nine of them worked with him as league or team executives. Ten of them were writers who covered him for most, if not all, of his 29 years as the head of the NFL.

Without Ego

By Will McDonough

To know Pete Rozelle, and to have the pleasure of his company many times, was one of the wonderful bonuses of my 37 years as a journalist.

What made Rozelle so remarkable was his lack of ego. He was perhaps the most important man of his time in sports, but you never would know it. He never talked about himself or his accomplishments.

There are two little stories that may help explain what this very private person was like.

My wife Denise had accompanied me to Miami, where I was on assignment for the *Boston Globe*. Pete and his wife Carrie were there for a Dolphins' playoff game. We decided to celebrate New Year's Eve together.

Pete invited us to his hotel on Key Biscayne, where he had arranged a dinner reservation for 9:30. After we finished, Pete suggested we hop into his car and go to a local watering hole.

When Pete was informed that his car wasn't available for the evening, we volunteered to drive, forgetting that we had a small rental car with a baby seat installed in the back. Pete insisted on sitting in the back—on top of the baby seat. He squeezed his lanky frame into that seat, laughing all the way to the restaurant, and insisted on riding in the same place on the return trip.

Try to imagine anyone else of that stature doing such a thing.

In 1989, I was working for CBS, and Ted Shaker, my boss, called several days before the NFL spring meetings to share a rumor: Rozelle was going to retire.

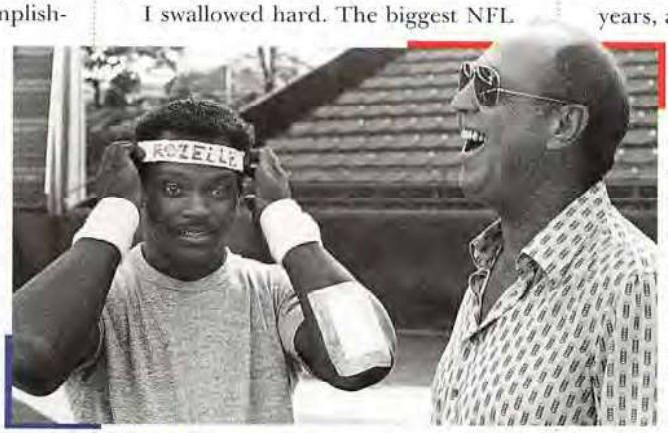
I called Pete in the league office, where he was in the middle of a meeting. He returned my call about 10 minutes later, and I asked him about the story.

"Will, do me a favor," he said. "Don't even hint at retirement. We have a lot of important things to do at the meeting, and I don't want to get there and start answering a bunch of questions about retirement even before the meetings begin. Would you do that for me?"

Even though he never answered my question directly, I agreed.

The next Wednesday, while in Palm Springs, California, for the meetings, I took my two youngest children to see a California Angels' preseason game. As it turned out, we left the game early because we were getting sunburned. When we returned to the hotel, reporters were scurrying in all directions. I asked what was going on, and a writer said, "Didn't you hear? Rozelle just quit."

I swallowed hard. The biggest NFL story in years was breaking, and I had to find a typewriter.



Good Humor Man: *Rozelle gets a laugh out of Walter Payton's headband antics.*

Shortly after I got to the press room, a friend said that Carrie Rozelle wanted a word with me. "Pete would like to see you in our room," she said. "But he needs some time. He has to finish some business. How about six o'clock?"

At six, I was at his door, and the first words out of his mouth were an apology. "I'm sorry about what happened last week," he said, "but if anything had been said about my retiring, I would not have been able to go out on my own terms."

He asked me to stay and have a drink. He answered every question I asked. It was the only one-on-one interview he gave that day, and I knew why he gave it to me. It was because of what had happened the week before. With his sense of fairness, he felt this would even the balance. It did. But it wasn't necessary.

I had made up my mind long before, that Pete Rozelle was even a greater person than he was a commissioner.

Will McDonough, a columnist for the Boston Globe *and commentator for NBC, has covered pro football for more than 30 years.*

Persuader

By Don Weiss

I met Pete Rozelle for the first time when I was assigned to cover an NFL meeting at the Warwick Hotel in New York in January, 1961. I was working for the *Associated Press*, where I'd been for 10 years, and together with coworker Jim Kensil shared an intense interest in the NFL.

Covering an NFL meeting meant a lot of lobby-sitting—it still does, as a matter of fact—which wasn't all bad because you got to spend a lot of time with owners such as Art Rooney, who often wandered out of the meeting room to smoke cigars and swap stories with writers.

RICHARD GENTILE

We were lobby-sitting with Rooney this day when Rozelle came out of the room and asked: "Anybody here from *AP*?" I was struck by how young he looked. He was 34—they called him the "boy commissioner"—but he looked much younger. I introduced myself, and he said, "Do you know this guy Kensil?" I told him I knew Kensil well.

Kensil, who was editing the sports wire, wrote a radio-television column in his spare time. Something he had written had caught Pete's eye, and he wanted to meet him.

I relayed the message, they met and talked, and the next thing I knew Jim had left *AP* to become the league's public-relations director. For the next 16 years, he was Pete's right-hand man.

Jim and I stayed in touch through phone conversations, and through Jim I began to realize what a truly remarkable person Pete was. When Jim called in 1965 to ask me to recommend candidates for another public-relations position with the league (by then, I was a public-relations man for the U.S. Golf Association), I said I'd be interested myself.

I spent the next 29 years working for the NFL, and every day with Pete was a learning experience. He was unmatched

during a press conference whether there were five or 500 writers in the room. He talked to everyone as if he were a friend. He was as smart as anyone I ever met, often knowing the answers to questions before they were asked.

When he was at his peak, he could push through proposals that he alone knew were in the best interests of the league. He was a master of gentle persuasion, often making the most reluctant voters think they had originated Pete's ideas.

Even with the exhausting and debilitating lawsuits of the 1980s, he found time to chat with the little people. He loved to get together with a small group of people to talk sports and tell stories. When he had his boat in Manhattan, we'd often call a handful of writers to have a drink in his office and then cruise around Manhattan. Each not only had a story when he left, but a better, clearer understanding of the issues the NFL was facing.

He wasn't a funny person, but he had a great sense of humor. One of his favorite stories had a punch line that required a mild stutter: "Th-th-that's easy for y-y-you to say!"

One after another, all of his friends told him we wouldn't mind if he never told that one again.

But Pete, dear friend, you can tell it as often as you like. You've meant more to us than we can tell. And that's easy for me to say.

Don Weiss, retired NFL executive, was a long-time colleague of Pete Rozelle.

People Person

By Bob Oates

My recollection is that the private, personal Pete Rozelle is best defined not by the big things he did, but by some of the little things.

• At a club owners meeting in Hawaii early in his first term as commissioner, I was sitting with Rozelle one day when he was on the telephone to a hotel in Chicago, where he would spend the next three days.

He was talking with the manager of the hotel's gift shop. Making plans for the week ahead, he was ordering copies of every newspaper in the Chicago area. He wanted them delivered to his room as soon as the gift shop opened on each of the next three mornings.

In a long-ago year when $10 was still $10, he told her: "Put it on the hotel bill, please. And add on two ten-dollar tips. For you and the person who delivers them."

• Throughout his career in football, Rozelle always seemed to know what every sportswriter was thinking—or at least saying. He seemed to have total recall.

Some years ago on a New York business trip, I remember walking with him along Park Avenue one late-spring day when I vaguely recognized, coming toward us, a new, young assistant public relations director of a Midwest-based NFL club. Apparently on a holiday, the young publicist seemed to be out shopping with his wife. Frantically, I searched my memory for a clue to his identity. But Rozelle smiled broadly, addressed the man and his wife both by name, and shook hands with both—then brought me into the brief conversation.

A Fresh Face: *Rozelle, 33 when he was elected, was called the "boy commissioner."*

Later, I asked Rozelle: "Do you know everybody in the league?"

"Not everybody," he said. "Just those I've met."

He had met that couple once—at a crowded Super Bowl party.

• It can't be proved, but I might have been the only one in or out of the league who suggested Pete Rozelle for commissioner in 1960, when, at 33, he was so clearly underage for such a responsibility that his election surprised almost everyone but his secretary, Thelma Elkjer, a trusted assistant who would serve by his side for more than three decades.

I had made the recommendation to several NFL leaders, including Dan Reeves of Los Angeles and George Halas of Chicago, after watching Rozelle, then an employee of the Rams, deal smoothly, shrewdly, and patiently—over a period of several years—with the club's four warring owners: Reeves versus Ed Pauley, Bob Hope, and Fred Levy.

They couldn't stand each other.

The man who could referee their fights effectively, I reasoned, could handle anything.

• The Peter Principle applied more obviously to Pete Rozelle than to anyone else I've known in football.

It applied in reverse.

With every step up, he was more successful than he had been on any lower level.

In his younger years, Rozelle was a better publicist than assistant publicist—much better—and as general manager of the Rams, he was more effective than he had ever been in their public relations department. Still, he wasn't the greatest general manager in sports.

It was only as a commissioner that he excelled.

His greatest talent was his ability to get along with people.

He was born to be a commissioner.

Bob Oates, retired sportswriter, covered pro football for the Los Angeles Times.

A Friend

By Jim Heffernan

June 8, 1966: arguably, the most significant date in the modern history of football. Pete Rozelle announced the merger of the NFL and AFL.

Super Bowls...*Monday Night Football*...billion-dollar television contracts...AFC-NFC interconference games.

June 8, 1966: also a date of particular significance to me. The merger was the instrument that increased the size of the

NFL staff and, two years hence, brought me to Pete Rozelle. That was the beginning of a professional relationship that lasted 21 years—it was a friendship I continue to cherish.

How do I remember Pete?

Super Bowl time was special. It was each season's pinnacle in the world of sports. He was elated that fans reveled in the pomp, pageantry, and parties. But the game was primary. It was *his* game.

He had two requisites: a small private box for himself, his wife Carrie, colleague Val Pinchbeck, and maybe a top TV network executive; also, a good supply of hot dogs and mustard and a crock of spicy chili. For years, a crockpot traveled with Super Bowl files from site to site. In Los Angeles, the chili came from the famed Chasen's restaurant.

A rusty nail is a potent after-dinner drink. It is a mixture of Drambuie and Scotch. It was his favorite. He could drink you under the table and never lose his charm or style.

LONG PHOTOGRAPHY

Personality Plus: *A disarming smile and a fondness for people served him well.*

On a credenza behind his desk in New York were photos of Carrie, his daughter, Anne Marie, and an old manual typewriter. His notes to staff members were informal and unstylish—all lowercase letters, with errors x-ed out. An example:

heff:

qantas is spelled without a u. it is an acronym for queensland and northern territories air services. make sure the copy is corrected.

pete

On his always-cluttered desk was a fountain pen. No ballpoints for his signature.

I was in the Park Avenue office on a Sunday when I learned of the accidental death of Buddy Young, one of Pete's earliest hires and the first black executive in pro sports. Pete and Carrie were attending a game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City when I reached them to inform them of the tragedy. Upon arriving in New York, they immediately went to the Young home in Scarsdale, New York, to join others in comforting Buddy's widow, Geraldine.

Pete cared about his staff members and their families.

His retirement prompted a request. No one had compiled, for want of a better term, a scrapbook of his accomplishments. He wanted one. I got the task. Just a simple matter of searching files of newspapers, news releases, and hundreds of photos.

In 1963, Pete was named Sportsman of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*. Thanks to managing editor Mark Mulvoy, I obtained not one, but two copies of the 26-year-old edition. Jere Wright of NFL Properties's Creative Services Division did a wonderful job of producing the final product, a leather-bound labor of respect and admiration. We did a good job. Pete told us so.

In fact, he liked the one-of-a-kind chronicle so much he asked for another—for his daughter. So there were two-of-a-kind.

But there was only one Pete Rozelle.

Jim Heffernan, a retired NFL executive, was a long-time colleague of Pete Rozelle.

A Fan

By Ray Didinger

The year was 1970, and I was a rookie on the pro football beat, covering the Philadelphia Eagles for the *Bulletin*.

I felt a tap on my shoulder at halftime of the third regular-season game. It was Jim Heffernan, then director of public relations for the NFL.

"The Commissioner wants to meet you," Heffernan said.

"Yeah, sure he does," I replied.

Heff was a former *Bulletin* sportswriter, a friend, and a practical joker, so I assumed he was kidding. He insisted he was telling the truth.

"Pete likes to meet all the new beat guys," Heffernan said, as he led me to the far end of the Franklin Field press box. There, as promised, sat Pete Rozelle, dapper as always and extending his hand.

"Welcome to the NFL," he said.

I'll always remember that moment. The warmth of his smile, the ease in his manner. It wasn't at all what I expected from a man who was referred to as the czar of professional football.

Rozelle was eating a hot dog. His binoculars hung on a strap around his neck. I remember thinking he looked like a regular fan. And, in truth, that's what Pete Rozelle was. Indeed, that's how he would want to be remembered.

He wasn't a lawyer, a politician, a former player, or coach. He was a former sportswriter, publicist, and general manager of the Los Angeles Rams. But, at heart, he was a fan. His greatest pleasure was sitting back on a Sunday afternoon and watching a game, even if it involved two winless teams, as that one did.

I asked Rozelle why he came to see the 0-2 Eagles play the 0-2 Washington Redskins. He said he thought it would be a good game. It wasn't. The Redskins romped 33-21. Everyone romped over the Eagles back then. But Franklin Field was full, the October sun was shining, and to Pete Rozelle it was Camelot on the Schuylkill River.

That was the dawn of a golden decade for pro football. The NFL and the AFL had merged. *Monday Night Football* had its debut to blockbuster ratings on network television. The Super Bowl had vaulted to the top of the American sports marquee.

In 1970, pro football was taking off like a NASA rocket, and it was Rozelle's hand that was on the throttle. I just had hopped on for the ride. We talked for about 10 minutes that day. Rozelle asked me about my background. I was 23, the

youngest beat man in the league.

Rozelle reminded me that he was only 33 when he became the commissioner in 1960. He said: "I'll tell you the same thing [team owners] told me: 'You'll grow into it.'"

I must have passed the test because I stayed on the NFL beat for another 25 years. I stayed long enough to see Rozelle inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985, and long enough to cover his retirement as commissioner four years later. Now we write about his legacy.

After hundreds of games and thousands of interviews, the images tend to blur. But I'll always remember meeting Pete Rozelle at Franklin Field. Mostly, I'll remember that, for all his power and Park Avenue tailoring, he was a regular guy.

He had very little ego, which set him apart from other sports executives. He was the one who, through his visionary leadership, built the showcase that is pro football today. But he never for a moment believed he was the show. He knew it was the coaches and players who made the game.

Rozelle actually seemed embarrassed the day he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He said he felt out of place in an induction class that included Roger Staubach and Joe Namath.

"I was riding in the parade and listening to all the cheers," Rozelle said that day. "But I doubt many of those cheers were for me."

He could not have been more wrong, of course. Or more in character.

Ray Didinger, who formerly covered the NFL for the Bulletin *and the* Philadelphia Daily News, *is a producer for NFL Films.*

Mentor

By Joe Browne

I was a 17-year-old in the NFL mail room when I met Commissioner Pete Rozelle. My dad had died 10 years earlier, and my mom worried that I was growing up without a proper male role model. After I spent some time around the Commissioner, she didn't have to worry any longer.

I listened to the way he spoke, watched the way he treated people, and even observed the way he dressed.

Pete—and, boy, was it a long time before I called him *that*—was an immaculate dresser. He always wore a tie and jacket, which, in my mind, didn't seem to fit his Southern California background.

I saw him in shirt sleeves in the office on only one occasion. It was a hot, steamy New York day. The office officially was closed, the building air conditioning was off, but a few of us were working. I went to see the Commissioner, who was perspiring behind his desk in his customary jacket and tie.

"Pete," I said, "if George Halas and Vince Lombardi were to come back and visit you in the office, they would beg you to take off your jacket."

He laughed and slowly removed it. Funny, he didn't know where to hang it.

Pete never was one to have pictures of himself or other mementos on the walls around his desk. The only photographs in his office were of his wife Carrie and daughter Anne Marie.

He spent his last two decades as commissioner in our office at 410 Park Avenue. We moved there on Friday, October 18, 1968. I'll always remember the date because it was the day I left for Parris Island. Pete always kidded that I would do anything—even join the Marines—to get out of the office move.

He was modest and low-key, and seldom uttered the word "I." It was always "we" or "we in the league." A *New York Times* reporter once pressed him in an interview to talk about himself and his accomplishments. Pete much preferred to talk about others.

The reporter finally got his attention when he asked, "How big is your ego?" Pete paused, sighed, and ultimately said, "I'll give you this. If you gathered the egos of everyone involved in sports—commissioners, owners, coaches, and players—and drew a line for the *average* ego, I would put mine just above the line." A lot of us who knew him would have put it considerably below that imaginary mark.

I worked closest with Pete in the eighties, when the issues we faced were complex and far-flung. He would describe the workload by saying, "This is not exactly civil service." If I ever paused long enough between questions during lunches together, he would ask, "How do you think the Steelers will do Sunday?" or "Who do you think will win the NFC East?" He was such a fan. I wanted to discuss the latest lawsuit or Congressional hearing; he wanted to talk football.

When he retired to San Diego, he often would send notes with the familiar closing "cheers, pete." I miss those notes and those luncheons, but not nearly as much as I miss him. He was a boss, a mentor, and a friend. He was the best role model anyone could have.

Cheers, Pete.

Joe Browne is the NFL's senior vice president for communications and government affairs.

Colleagues in Arms: *Browne, Kensil, Weiss, and Heffernan surround Rozelle.*

SARAH MERIANS

One of Us

By Jerry Green

NFL Commissioner Bert Bell had died on a Sunday afternoon while the NFL was playing its games, and now the franchise owners seemed hopelessly deadlocked in their

selection of a new commissioner.

They went through ballot after bitter ballot as one experienced candidate, then another, was rejected. At last, Pete Rozelle, 33, general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, was recommended as a longshot to break the impasse. Rozelle was asked to leave the room.

He waited in the men's room of the Kenilworth Hotel on Miami Beach. He fretted for hours. He passed time pacing to the wash basins to rinse his hands.

On the twenty-third ballot, the bickering owners picked their commissioner. An emissary was dispatched to fetch Rozelle and inform him of his compromise election.

"I come into the job with clean hands," Rozelle said.

It was one of his favorite anecdotes over the years, during which he grew and his sport grew with him. He was, I always believed, a sportswriters' commissioner. For sure, he was the sporting pioneer who first realized the value of television.

But to us, the ink-stained wretches who covered pro football from the 1950s and '60s through the '70s and '80s into the '90s, Pete never ignored his roots. He had started with notebook and pen and the written word. And he never forgot the impact of words on paper.

He grew, and his sport grew—and I will believe eternally that I was able to grow as a journalist because he was commissioner of a sport I cover.

A couple of vignettes:

• Green Bay versus Dallas, Vince Lombardi versus Tom Landry for the NFL championship and the right to represent Pete's league in what he called then the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (later known as Super Bowl I).

Pete is squatting near the goal line, close enough to see the flames in Don Meredith's eyes in the Cowboys' huddle. It is New Year's Day, 1967, and it is getting dark.

A rogue journalist, fleeing NFL security, kneels next to Rozelle as the drama surges.

Rozelle looks up.

"Some game, isn't it?" he says, grinning.

VIC STEIN

Rams Man: *Rozelle earned his spurs during two tours of duty with the Rams.*

"It sure is," I answer, appreciative because Rozelle does not have me dragged off into the gloaming to wait out the climax with my colleagues.

• There were many of us who survived the series of coast-to-coast meetings that resolved the details of the merger. We became recluses in press rooms, lurking spies in hotel lobbies and corridors. Near the end, it was determined that three franchises from the established NFL would join in a conference with the 10-year-old AFL clubs to form a greater league.

Which three would switch?

I covered the Detroit Lions. I wondered if they might be shoved in with Oakland, Kansas City, San Diego, and other AFL towns that NFL blue bloods then disdained.

"Not for attribution," Rozelle told me, with his sophisticated public relations skill, during a break in the meetings. "Who sponsors NFL games on CBS?"

Pete had guided me to a precious scoop. William Clay Ford's Lions would not be made to switch. Not with Ford Motor Company a major sponsor.

Jerry Green, a columnist for the Detroit News, *has covered the NFL for more than 30 years.*

Firm but Fair

By Jim Kensil

In the spring of 1965, AFL owners met at Monmouth Park racetrack in New Jersey. At the end of the meeting, they announced their intention to expand to Atlanta. Members of the media immediately began calling the NFL office for comment from Pete Rozelle.

Their calls were directed to me, the league's public relations director, and my reply was simple: Pete was not available for comment. He was in Atlanta.

After he returned to New York, Pete commissioned a poll to measure the potential popularity of the NFL in Atlanta. The results were overwhelmingly favorable, and he sent me to Atlanta to announce the findings.

I first went to the office of Governor Carl Sanders, and then to city hall to inform Mayor Ivan Allen, a famous figure in civil rights history. Allen had supported the AFL expansion, but he smiled and said, "Tell Pete Rozelle he is the greatest carpetbagger of them all."

But Pete was much more than that. He was personable, but firm. And, above all, he was fair.

I saw steel in his eyes when someone attacked the game unfairly, or when a member club violated a provision of the NFL constitution and bylaws.

I saw tears in his eyes when he informed Loretta Hornung, Paul's mother, that he had to suspend the great player for gambling in 1963.

Pete drew the blueprints for the job of commissioner, but he did it day by day for his almost 30 years on the job. I worked for him 16 of those years, and he always was current. He measured his thoughts, but he moved swiftly when the situation demanded it.

Owners, even those who were his greatest supporters, fought him, but could not intimidate him. And those same owners respected him immensely.

He was 35 years old, two years on the job, when NFL owners convened for a winter meeting in Florida in 1962. During a recess, as people were milling about the room, two legends of the NFL, George Preston Marshall and George Halas, were standing near me and talking about Rozelle.

All I heard was how great "the kid" was doing, how the "young fellow" had grown into the job. They were shrewd,

because in targeting me as a messenger, they conveyed their sentiments without appearing to curry Pete's favor.

Pete Rozelle loved sports and he cared about the fans. To walk the streets of Green Bay with him was like being in a toy store with a kid.

He was the most influential person in my adult life, but I am not alone.

Jim Kensil, a retired NFL executive, was a long-time colleague of Pete Rozelle.

A Listener

By Don Klosterman

Dignity, integrity, humility, compassion, loyalty, friendship—those are the words that come to mind when I think about Pete Rozelle.

One of the great marks of his personality also was a big reason for his success. He treated everybody—little people and big people—with respect.

He had absolutely no ego. He was a giant of a man, but he always considered himself just another guy doing the best job he could. He had a magical knack for bringing people together. He listened, and he cared. He was the best listener I ever knew.

I marveled that he never boasted about any of his triumphs. He never lost his temper. He possessed an innate ability to recognize problems, to understand them, and then to find solutions.

We never forgot our first conversation. I was about to start my first game at quarterback for Compton (California) High School in the season opener against Pasadena. Pete was student sports information director for Compton Junior College, which shared our campus. He was interviewing me for a news release.

I was pretty brash back then. I told him, "Pete, football is a very simple game. I'm going to run the ball, and if that doesn't work I'm going to pass it, and if that doesn't work, I'm going to punt it."

We shared many laughs over that first meeting.

Pete was an excellent writer who could have been a great success in journalism. He frequently confided to the late Paul Zimmerman that his earliest dream was to succeed Zim as sports editor of the *Los Angeles Times*. Instead, Pete became sports information director for the University of San Francisco, where he had a lot to do publicizing the performance of Ollie Matson and helping him earn All-America honors in football.

I was with the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL—the *other* league—during Pete's early years as NFL Commissioner. One day, we bumped into each other in a hotel lobby in Chicago and exchanged warm greetings. One of Pete's top aides took me aside and told me to get lost. "You are the enemy," the aide said. "You can't speak to Pete."

Pete interrupted him. "Old friends are old friends," he said.

In the last three years of his life, as he battled his illness, I visited Pete at his home in Rancho Santa Fe, California, at least once a week. He had a tremendous entertainment center and he watched every NFL game on television up until the end. He subscribed to many newspapers, and he read clippings that were sent to him by the NFL office.

Pete had a favorite way of signing letters. He ended every note with a single word: "Cheers!"

Well, here's cheers to you, old friend.

Don Klosterman, former general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, was a lifelong friend of Pete Rozelle.

Visionary

By Larry Felser

My favorite memory of Pete Rozelle dates to January 12, 1969, when the Jets beat the Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III, the mother of all sports upsets.

My seat in the Orange Bowl press box was directly next to the commissioner's box, which was not a luxury accommodation in those days. Only a glass partition separated me from Rozelle, who sat with George Halas of the Chicago Bears on his right and Art Modell of the Cleveland Browns to the right of Halas.

For NFL stalwarts, the *real* championship had been decided 14 days earlier, when Baltimore incinerated the Browns 34-0 in the NFL title game. There was little evidence that this Super Bowl would be much different from its two predecessors, in which the AFL had been outclassed. Jimmy the Greek, then mainly an oddsmaker, had established the Jets as 18-point underdogs.

By the middle of the third quarter, with Jets quarterback Joe Namath methodically chipping away at the Baltimore defense, Halas and Modell appeared ashen. Rozelle, on the other hand, bore the coolly detached look of a figure-skating judge.

TONY TOMSIC

A Football Fan: *Beneath the immaculate attire and the smooth style, the Commissioner was, above all, a fan of the NFL.*

As the game wore on and the outcome became obvious, I heard a quiet tapping alongside me. I turned to see Rozelle, who held a hand-written note to the glass for me to read: "Do you think the Greek will be barred from Las Vegas after this?"

For Halas, Modell, and the rest of the NFL establishment, the Jets' victory was the ultimate mortification. Rozelle looked at it from a broader perspective. The game was certifiable proof that the AFL would hold up its end in the coming merger of the leagues.

The last time I was with Pete socially was in Washington the year before he resigned as commissioner. He had his chief aide, Joe Browne, round up a few of his

old sportswriter cronies, and we rendezvoused at Duke Ziebart's restaurant. The food and drink were good, the stories hilarious, and most of the lies believable. Rozelle had a great time.

I sat next to him that night. Late in the evening, he leaned over and confided, "In the old days, this is what I liked to do best. Now, I spend all my days and most of my nights talking to lawyers. There isn't much fun to that."

One of the most unprofessional things a journalist can do is request an autograph from someone he is assigned to cover. I broke the unwritten rule on the day Pete was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. I brought my copy of the game program from Super Bowl I to Canton, Ohio, and asked him to inscribe it.

It's something I always will treasure.

Larry Felser, a sports columnist for the Buffalo News, *has been covering pro football since the birth of the AFL.*

Ever Calm

By Mickey Herskowitz

On New Year's Eve 1960, I had dinner with Pete Rozelle. I was an eager, wide-eyed kid on one of my first big assignments. We were seated next to each other at the annual Sugar Bowl party at Antoine's restaurant in New Orleans.

Pete saw from my place card that I was with a Houston newspaper, and he instantly began firing questions. "Is it true Houston is going to try to sign Billy Cannon tomorrow?" he asked.

Cannon, the Heisman Trophy winner from Louisiana State, was to be the first marquee player signed by the upstart American Football League. "Their lawyer is supposed to sign him under the goal posts," I said. "They've even flown in a photographer."

From the Oysters Rockefeller to the petit fours, the questions continued. *What was the lawyer's name?* (Adrian Burk, a former NFL quarterback) *How much were the Oilers prepared to offer? What about Cannon's agreement to play for the Rams?*

If LSU had come up with as many answers as I provided, the Bayou Tigers never would have lost to Ole Miss the next afternoon. As we left the restaurant, I asked a friend if he knew the tall, tanned fellow sitting next to me.

"That's Pete Rozelle," came the reply, "the general manager of the Rams. He's supposed to sign Cannon tomorrow."

ROZELLE FAMILY

Dynamic Duo:
Pete and Carrie Rozelle were almost inseparable.

The Oilers staged their little show after the game, and I actually found myself between Cannon and Rozelle in the LSU locker room. I heard Pete say, softly, "Billy, be careful what you say. Don't say anything you'll regret later."

He was then, as he always was, measured and calm, his voice soothing. He lost the court case over Cannon's services, the first of many lawsuits that Rozelle would grapple with in his role as NFL Commissioner.

It was an odd beginning to a nice friendship. Pete had a rich capacity for being nice to people who were not always on his side, and this included writers who did not always praise him. To Pete, a good line and a good laugh mattered more than praise.

Humorist Art Buchwald once roasted Rozelle at a dinner: "When Pete took over as commissioner, he had a dream. He saw football as more than a game. He saw it as a license to print money."

No one in the room laughed louder than Rozelle. Put it this way: He saw the potential of pro football beyond what anyone else imagined. He brought the game to women, he created the Super Bowl, and he had enough audacity to insist that Howard Cosell be a part of *Monday Night Football*.

It was easy to admire Pete. He returned phone calls and gave straight answers. He handled his job with dignity, even in circumstances that were less than ideal.

Mickey Herskowitz, formerly a columnist for the Houston Post, *covered pro football for more than 30 years.*

Sentimental

By Edwin Pope

Several Super Bowls ago, when Pete Rozelle was in a position to sit back and enjoy himself after so many years in the eye of the storm, I flippantly posed a word-association test to the former commissioner. What did the words "National Football League" mean to him?

Rozelle tendered that little half smile he wore in the toughest of roles, and said, "You're going to hate this answer because it's so corny. But the truth is that those words...National...Football...League...send something through me every time I hear them."

I might not have believed anyone else who told me that. But Pete Rozelle's word was bankable. So I kept listening.

"You think that's too corny?" he asked.

No, not from him.

"Okay," he went on. "You know how you feel about where you grew up, that no matter how many warts your home town grows, no matter how much trouble it has, it will always be something shining in your life because you loved it so much when you were growing up?

"I didn't grow up with the NFL. I never dreamed I'd be in the NFL, let alone doing what I wound up doing for twenty-nine years. But I have the same feeling about the league that I had about my home

town, about my high school."

I would have sworn I saw a hint of a tear. But this was one tough bird on the outside of all that sentiment.

"I'm not going to say I feel about a football league the way I feel about my wife Carrie," he added. "Nothing could be like that. But you know something? You know how you get so attached to something or somebody they can't do anything wrong?

"It's my family. And then the NFL. That's how it's been with me."

Edwin Pope, a sports columnist for the Miami Herald, *has been commenting on pro football for more than 30 years.*

Promoter

By Jim Murray

Pete Rozelle's great art was public relations. He realized that all sport was a created appetite. His background was sports information director, pro football public relations, and Qantas Airlines publicity.

It took baseball perhaps 20 years before the World Series became an American tribal rite. It took basketball's Final Four even longer. Even the Rose Bowl kind of grew like Topsy.

Pete put the Super Bowl up there overnight. He did it by attention to the details of promotion and public relations.

Before he would award a Super Bowl to a community, he would extract guarantees that hotels would earmark a certain number of rooms for the press at clerical rates. He would arrange tours and events for media wives. He staged a Super Bowl media party that became almost a hotter ticket than the Super Bowl.

Did all this take place in a vacuum? Hardly. Pete was shocked when the first Super Bowl almost became a Super Flop—he had to order Vince Lombardi to bring his team west to practice near Los Angeles, the site of the game, to beef up flagging press interest. He decided never to let that happen again.

Pete knew the Super Bowl would be his monument. It did not matter that the game became as one-sided as a bull fight or, sometimes, as dull as peanut butter. He made the Super Bowl the place to be, the biggest one-day event in sports history.

Football was lucky to have Pete Rozelle. Any sport would have been lucky to have Pete Rozelle. And any sportswriter certainly was.

Jim Murray is a nationally renowned sports columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

NFL PHOTOS

Happy Days: *Rozelle took joy in presenting the Lombardi Trophy to Art Rooney.*

Planner

By Jim Steeg

In January, 1979, I walked into Pete Rozelle's office to get his advice on what opportunities I could pursue with the NFL. The meeting was short. Pete said, "I have a job for you, but I can't give you the exact details. Go down to Miami to see what we do at the Super Bowl. When you return, we can discuss the opportunity."

Little did I know that he planned to entrust me with the planning of what would be one of his great legacies, the Super Bowl. I worked with him for 11 years, and I won't forget his words: "Do things with style and class. The rest will follow." He wanted the NFL's relationship with each city to be a partnership; negotiations should make both sides feel good. The result is an unparalleled event. The Super Bowl once generated $5 million in direct revenues. Now, it generates about $125 million.

Pete always saw the fans as the key to our plans. He wanted the Super Bowl experience to be the best it could be. He became intimately involved in the pregame and halftime shows.

In the 1980s, he said that the game had become much more than a one-day event. We needed to make it a three, or four-day experience. The last plans he approved in 1989 were for the first Super Bowl Card Show and NFL Towne Square; they were the precursors of The NFL Experience.

During the two weeks prior to each Super Bowl, Pete would call every day, no matter how busy he was. His first stop when he arrived in town was a visit to see how things were going.

No one could have a Super Bowl party without Pete and his wife Carrie as their guests. They had the great ability to make the sort of impression in 15 minutes that lasted throughout the night. We affectionately called his brief visits on the Saturday before the Super Bowl "pit stops." At Super Bowl XXII, in San Diego, Pete made his usual 10 or 12 pit stops, but at midnight he stopped to call me. This is what set him apart.

Three weeks prior to his death, I had the chance to spend 90 minutes with Pete. We discussed many things, but foremost for him was what we had planned for Super Bowl XXXI—the Friday night party, the pregame show, the Anthem, the halftime, and all the other events. We discussed a tape I had sent him a month earlier that contained all the activities from Super Bowl XXX in Arizona. The special glint in his eyes showed me that he was pleased.

Jim Steeg is the NFL's executive director of special events.

Winner

By Val Pinchbeck

It could have been another day of infamy, at least for the good guys carrying the NFL briefcases. As it was, it was a

day that time stood still for Pete Rozelle...for maybe 10 minutes.

The day was July 29, 1986. The three-month jury trial in Federal Court at Foley Square in New York, pitting the United States Football League against the NFL, was in its final stages.

Both sides had presented their cases, and now the jury was deliberating. Five women and one man would decide what amounted to the fate of the NFL...and its commissioner.

NFL PHOTOS

Celebration: *When a jury awarded the USFL only $1, Rozelle had reason to smile.*

Rozelle, who had suffered multiple slings and arrows during days of cross-examination during the so-called Raiders trial in Los Angeles a few years earlier, again was the focal figure in a courtroom battle. It was Rozelle's job to remain credible during cross-examination by Harvey Myerson, the theatrical attorney for the USFL. Previously, notables such as Donald Trump and Howard Cosell had testified.

Trump was perhaps the most disingenuous. He told the story of Rozelle calling him and asking him to meet at the Pierre Hotel. Trump, the owner of the USFL's New Jersey franchise, claimed Pete had promised him an NFL franchise if Trump would abandon his USFL associates and thereby end the court action.

In fact, I had been with Pete shortly after the Pierre meeting while he finished typing a note on his old manual typewriter. Rozelle noted that *Trump* had asked for the meeting, and *Trump* had made the proposal.

But would Rozelle's honest recitation of the facts carry the day with the jury?

On July 29, with the jury in deliberation, Rozelle and I went to lunch. There was a phone call for Pete, and he rushed back after answering it. "Pay the check," he said, "the jury is due in with a verdict."

We hurried back to league headquarters at 410 Park Avenue, and then into a car. As we rode downtown, we waited for a call from counsel Jay Moyer. If the NFL won, we would go to the courthouse. If we lost, well, we didn't think much about that.

We parked about two blocks from the courthouse and waited. Finally, the phone rang and the driver answered. "No, honey," he said. "I'll probably be home late and..." "Put the damn thing back on the hook!" I screamed.

I suggested that we tune the car radio to all-news WCBS. We waited...and waited. Then at the end of a news update, a voice reported, "And, here in New York today, the USFL has won its court case against the National Football League. Details later."

Pete threw his head back and gasped. We sat there stunned, with Pete breathing hard...and me worrying about Pete. The trial had taken a toll on the Commissioner.

We began the drive back to the office when, about 10 minutes later, the full report hit the air: "In New York today, the USFL won its court case against the NFL...and was awarded the sum of one dollar."

Hugs followed handshakes, and we asked the driver to take us back to Foley Square.

The rest is history, with the defining photograph of Pete and lead attorney Frank Rothman in a bear hug on the sidewalk outside the courthouse.

BILL CUMMINGS

It was a wacky day, but in the end, the good guys won.

Pete Rozelle was the lead good guy...he was boss, friend, and leader, a man of undeniable integrity.

Val Pinchbeck, NFL senior vice president-broadcasting of network television, was a long-time colleague of Pete Rozelle.

Two-Dimensional

By Paul Zimmerman

When I read about Pete Rozelle working the halls of Congress, lobbying for some legislation or other, which he was so good at doing, I always had this vision of a senator or representative coming over to him at the break and saying, "What do you think of the Redskins, giving three-and-a-half, Pete?" And Pete saying, "Too many guys hurt. I'd lay off it."

There was the commissioner side of him—and he truly was the Babe Ruth of all commissioners—and then there was the fan, the guy in the barber shop. That's what I like to remember.

We were at a party in the 1970s—and I knew Pete as a West Coast guy who followed the 49ers—when, just to make conversation, I asked him what he thought of the 49ers that weekend. They were playing the Vikings, who were favored by seven points.

"I think you've got to take the seven points," Pete said. "I mean, they can run the ball. It's like stealing."

Officially, the league came down very heavily on any semblance of gambling, but this was Pete as just another guy who loved the game and who could look at it as a fan.

I knew how to get a rise out of him. I'd say, "Fifty-five to seven, Pete," and he'd get red in the face. He'd say, "Ed Brown was out, and we put in that lefty, Gene Sweeters, who couldn't complete a pass in practice...oh, hell, you know all that."

The subject was the 1950 Stanford-University of San Francisco game. I was at Stanford, Pete was the public relations guy for USF. Ollie Matson, Gino Marchetti, and all

the superstars who would bring the Dons an unbeaten season one year later were juniors in 1950. On that particular Saturday we intercepted Sweeters unmercifully and won 55-7. The memory of it, even though he knew he was being kidded, would make Pete furious.

I remember another time he was furious...well, maybe annoyed would be more accurate. It was at a press conference during Super Bowl week, and some facts-and-figures consultant the league had hired was explaining how pro football had taken over as the number-one spectator sport.

A couple of tough old writers, Dick Young of the *New York Daily News* and Jimmy Cannon of the Hearst Syndicate, took an instant dislike to this guy, and they started working him over pretty severely, asking how much of the "spectator" interest was driven by gambling. The guy tried to tap dance his way out of it, but he was losing ground. Pete, standing next to him on the podium, listened to about as much as he could take.

He threw a hip into the guy, knocked him aside, and took on the questions himself. It was time to get serious and end this nonsense.

I was sitting next to Dave Anderson the of the *New York Times*, and we both burst out laughing.

"That's Pete," he said.

Paul Zimmerman is a senior writer who covers pro football for Sports Illustrated.

NFL PHOTOS

Fighter

By Tex Schramm

Elsewhere in this section you will read about who and what Pete Rozelle was. To me, however, he had one trait that stood out among all others—he was a fighter.

The day Pete was chosen NFL Commissioner, the AFL was preparing for its first season. It was bankrolled by Lamar Hunt, the son of possibly the wealthiest man in the world at the time. Most of the teams were well heeled, and a few were fronted by very skilled promoters.

The first assault on the NFL was framed in a federal antitrust suit. Then came a battle for television revenues. From the beginning, the two leagues fought for players emerging from college.

After 2½ years, including a three-month trial, Rozelle and the NFL won the lawsuit.

Pete went to Washington and emerged with a bill that legalized single-network television contracts for professional sports leagues and revenue sharing among teams. Then he signed the most lucrative single-network contract in television history with CBS.

Fighting for rookies, Pete launched the NFL's "baby sitter" program as the war for talent escalated. Within a couple of years, the NFL had signed 71 percent of the draft choices common to both leagues.

He then led the NFL through the merger and into one of the most remarkable eras of success in sports history.

Tex Schramm, former president of the Dallas Cowboys, was among Pete Rozelle's closest friends.

Sensitive

By John Steadman

Pete Rozelle was an unusual man of style and grace, endowed with the rare gifts of leadership, vision, and eloquence. He also was a dear friend....

When newspapers failed and went out of business, as they have been known to do, Pete worried about what was going to happen to sportswriters. He'd call to see if he could help line up a job or otherwise be of assistance. I'm speaking from experience.

On the day in 1980 when former Dodgers star Duke Snider was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame, Pete was seated in the audience at Cooperstown, New York. Snider, a friend from high school, was receiving the most cherished honor baseball bestows. It didn't matter to Pete that he was the commissioner from a rival sport. He was determined to celebrate the occasion with his old friend.

On the morning after Pete was elected NFL Commissioner in 1960, the telephone awakened him at 5:30 at his Kenilworth Hotel suite in Miami Beach. "I just wanted to break you in right," I told him. Half asleep, he laughed and said, "You must have an early deadline."

After Carroll Rosenbloom, then owner of the Los Angeles Rams, conducted an hour-long denunciation of Rozelle at a league meeting, intent on initiating impeachment procedures, the Commissioner, without blinking, responded with the ideal understated rejoinder: "We'll now take a ninety-minute recess for lunch."

Rozelle's first action as commissioner was to move the league office from Philadelphia to New York, and he wanted

Giants of the Game: *Pete Rozelle, Tom Landry, and Tex Schramm.*

a certain sportswriter friend to go with him. Salary was no object, he said, for the role of being his assistant. Thirty-one years later, at Super Bowl XXV, he whispered to my wife, "See all the headaches you missed?"

John Steadman, sports columnist for the Baltimore Sun, *was a personal friend of Pete Rozelle.*

The Model

By Paul Tagliabue

My relationship with Pete Rozelle began in 1969 when I was a young attorney for the NFL's Washington law firm.

I had the chance to work with Pete on some league issues, the first being the Bachelor's III/Joe Namath incident in New York. It was an exciting opportunity for a young guy like me with a lifelong interest in sports.

Over time, our relationship grew much closer both from a professional and personal standpoint. Working with him provided the best education available in how to be a sports commissioner. More importantly, I developed a friendship that remains a treasured part of my life.

Pete Rozelle was a unique person in so many ways. Pete was forthright and persuasive, for sure, but he also had a wonderful personal touch with a subtle sense of humor that was part of his charm.

In 1989, Pete was the one who called me from the league meeting in Cleveland after the long search for his successor had ended. It was seven in the morning in Washington, and I was at home shaving when the phone rang.

"It looks like you're the one," Pete told me. "They've made a great choice. Get on a plane and get out here."

We continued to talk regularly as friends after he retired. I visited him at his home about a month before he died. He was very sick, but his spirit still was burning bright, especially when it came to the NFL. I asked him who he thought was the greatest player in the history of the NFL.

He thought about it for a while. "You can't pick one," he said. "There have been so many great ones. But the luckiest thing the NFL has had going for it is that the great players on the field also have been great individuals and great contributors to their communities off the field. Frank Gifford, Pat Summerall, Walter Payton, Roger Staubach, Barry Sanders, all the rest."

That was Pete at his best, always thinking of the big picture.

I know he had a special spot in his heart for Staubach. As a old Navy man, Pete admired what Roger accomplished—the Naval Academy, serving in Vietnam, a Hall of Fame career with the Cowboys, and a success in business.

Pete's extraordinary contributions to the NFL's development are well documented. He transformed the NFL from a series of essentially local events into a national passion.

Pete's spirit always will be with us because the NFL is his permanent legacy. But not being able to pick up the phone and talk to him anymore has left a big void in my life.

Paul Tagliabue, Pete Rozelle's successor, is the NFL Commissioner.

Present and Past: *NFL Commissioners Paul Tagliabue and Pete Rozelle*

NFL PHOTOS

THROUGH THE YEARS

1926: Alvin Ray (Pete) Rozelle is born on March 1 in South Gate, California.
1947: Edits game programs for the Los Angeles Rams while attending Compton Junior College.
1952: Hired as Rams public relations director—his first full-time NFL job.
1955: Leaves the Rams to work for a public relations firm in San Francisco.
1957: Rejoins Rams as general manager.
1960: On January 26, elected NFL Commissioner as compromise candidate on twenty-third ballot. At 33, becomes the sixth commissioner of the NFL and the youngest since Jim Thorpe, the first commissioner.
1961: After moving the league office from Philadelphia to New York, successfully lobbies for a Congressional bill that grants limited antitrust exemptions to pro sports leagues for single-network television contracts.
1962: Negotiates two-year, $9.3 million, league-wide, single-network television contract with CBS.
1963: Suspends Green Bay's Paul Hornung and Detroit's Alex Karras for wagering on their own teams. (The suspension is lifted one year later.) On November 24, decides that NFL games will be played two days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a decision he later describes as his biggest mistake as commissioner.
1966: On June 8, announces a merger of the NFL and AFL, paving the way for the AFL-NFL World Championship Game—later to become the Super Bowl.
1969: Proposes plans for regular-season Monday night games, to be televised in prime time. After rejections from NBC and CBS, ABC agrees to begin televising the games during the 1970 season.
1974: Receives 10-year contract extension as commissioner. Steers league through preseason player strike.
1980: Served with lawsuit by the Oakland Raiders and Los Angeles Coliseum Commission when Raiders are denied permission to move to Los Angeles. (Two years later, a jury rules against the NFL.)
1982: Negotiates five-year, $2.1 billion contract with three major television networks. Directs league through player strike that results in a shortened nine-game season.
1985: Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
1987: Announces a three-year, $1.43 billion television package with ABC, CBS, and NBC for the 1987-89 seasons. Expands NFL's television exposure to cable TV with the signing of a contract for Sunday night games on ESPN. Leads league through a player strike in which replacement players are used.
1989: On March 22, unexpectedly announces his retirement at NFL meetings in Palm Desert, California. Establishes home in Rancho Santa Fe, California, that fall, and officially steps down on November 5.
1993: Undergoes surgery for brain cancer.
1996: On December 6, dies at 70 at his home in Rancho Santa Fe.

TRULY THE BIGGEST GAME

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth Super Bowl, Pete Rozelle authored this foreword to* The Super Bowl, *published by Simon & Schuster in 1990

BY PETE ROZELLE

A few years ago, I was having dinner with Bill Granholm, a wonderful man who worked with me for decades—first with the Los Angeles Rams and then in the NFL offices. The owners had just had a rather stormy session about the future site of some Super Bowl or other. It seemed as if everything connected with the game had assumed monumental proportions.

I remember Granny picking up his cocktail, shaking his head, and saying, "Do you believe this? Do you believe this has gotten so big?"

I said "No" then and I'll say it again now. Except today it's even bigger. The stakes are even higher. For Super Bowl XXV, ABC is getting $850,000 for one 30-second commercial! I don't care what kind of financial numbers you're used to, that's a staggering amount.

CBS and NBC both televised the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (it wasn't called the Super Bowl then). CBS charged $85,000 a minute for commercials, and NBC $75,000.

Assuming ABC sells out all commercial spots for XXV—which seems like a safe assumption because every game so far has—the total likely will be somewhere around $43 million.

The reason it sells out is that there is no game, no event, no show that annually reaches a larger audience than the Super Bowl. Maybe three out of four Americans, plus millions more elsewhere, are watching.

No, I never thought it would get this big. I never thought it could get this big, mostly because...well, I guess because it never occurred to us back in the 1960s.

Of course, we knew that a matchup of the champions of the National Football League and the American Football League would be a big game. We knew—or I guess we hoped—that the public would be eager to see such a square-off.

But then we got our comeuppance in the first Super Bowl when there were roughly 32,000 empty seats in the Los Angeles Coliseum. We're talking about almost 35 percent of the seats in a 94,000-seat stadium! Nine years before, in 1958, when I was general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, we averaged nearly 85,000 per game and had crowds of more than 100,000 for our games against the Baltimore Colts and Chicago Bears. (The Coliseum had a seating capacity of 102,000 in the 1950s.)

Super Architect: *Even Rozelle was surprised by the magnitude of the Super Bowl.*

Fortunately, those were the last empty seats we have had for a Super Bowl. It's the most coveted ticket for any event in America.

After that first game, I remember we had a meeting to discuss the possible reasons why we hadn't sold out. A lot of people thought it was the price of the tickets. We had the tickets scaled at $12, $10, and $6. It's all relative, I know, but for the last five years, most game tickets have been priced at $100 or more. Some people resell them for 10, 20, even 30 times face value...and they get it.

So we got a dose of reality in that first game. We worked hard—we had tried everything— to sell seats. It was difficult to explain.

Two weeks before Super Bowl I, both the AFL Championship Game in Buffalo and the NFL Championship Game in Dallas had sold out. Both the visiting teams—the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL and the Green Bay Packers of the NFL—had won that day, setting up a game between the best teams from each league.

We couldn't have asked for a more attractive matchup, more superstars on two teams, or two more colorful coaches—Hank Stram, the Chiefs' bantam rooster, and Vince Lombardi, the Packers' strongman.

In all my 29 years as commissioner, except for George Halas, I never was closer to a head coach than I was to Vince Lombardi. I know it's a cliche to say that someone is a real man, but it must have been invented for Vince Lombardi. He was so strong, so powerful, so intelligent.

After the Packers outlasted the Cowboys 34-27 in the NFL Championship Game on New Year's Day two weeks before Super Bowl I, I gave Vince a call in Green Bay. He was adamant about wanting to stay in Green Bay, to practice there until the Friday or Saturday before the Super Bowl, and then fly out. I told him he couldn't do that, that he had to spend the seven days or so before the game in southern California. I thought it would help sell tickets.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHUCK REN

The Packers spent the six days before the game in Santa Barbara, and I have to say that I never saw Vince Lombardi more anxious than he was that week. The man had won four NFL championships to that point, his teams had played in five title games and countless other big games...and I know he never felt the pressure like that.

Vince knew that not only did his own ownership expect him to win, but there were 13 other NFL owners who had the same kind of emotional investment.

I was pleased that it was a close game for more than a half. I think we all feared that it might be a one-sided blowout. I was very happy with the 35-10 result.

I honestly can say that there are only three Super Bowls in which I was rooting—silently, of course—for a team. I wanted the Packers to win in both Super Bowls I and II because my NFL loyalties still were strong...and I wanted the Steelers to win in Super Bowl IX for the sake of the finest, most decent man I ever knew apart from my own father, Art Rooney.

Super Bowl II between the Packers and the Oakland Raiders was played in Miami (we played three games there in four years—II, III, and V), and Vince told me before the game that it would be his last as the Packers' head coach.

I guess the reality of that decision never sunk in with me because I remember being just as surprised—maybe disappointed—as everyone else when he announced his decision a few weeks after the game.

The biggest stories before Super Bowl II were the rumors that he was going to quit. He never told the team directly, although he came close to breaking down in one pregame meeting, so I think they suspected it very strongly.

Like the first game, it was fairly close for a half, but the Packers came on strong in the third quarter just as they had in January, 1967, and won 33-14.

Then came the one that I like to call the Magic Game. Game III between the Jets and the Colts not only put the Super Bowl on the map, it made it a permanent part of the American sports and entertainment consciousness.

The funny thing was that even though we had sold out Super Bowl II in Miami fairly easily, we didn't sell out game III until just a few minutes before game time.

Of course, that was the game when Joe Namath went to a dinner a few days before, and, in a speech, "guaranteed" a victory over the heavily favored Baltimore team.

Even for those radical days, Joe was a pretty radical guy—one of the first players to wear his hair long, the first to wear white shoes. He was flamboyant, anti-establishment, a character.

BILL MARK

To the Winner...*The NFL championship trophy is named in honor of Vince Lombardi.*

I really did not care who won the game, but I was hoping against hope that we would have a close game. The Packers had won the first two games by 25 and 19 points, and the Colts were favored by 18.

After Namath and the Jets prevailed 16-7, the NFL owners were very upset, of course. It was crushing for the old-line club people. But I was secretly pleased because I realized that this shocking turn of events was going to do nothing but help pro football.

It didn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that the Jets' victory was going to mushroom interest in our game. At that point, the merger that would be implemented after the next season was all set. By winning, the Jets proved the AFL teams belonged. Of course, as you might suspect, I never attempted to sell that logic to Carroll Rosenbloom, then the Colts' owner!

Super Bowl IV in January, 1970, at New Orleans, was the last game between the two leagues. In the 1970 season, the merger would be officially completed with realignment into two conferences.

The Vikings looked like the best team in football, but a lot of insiders said not to underestimate Hank Stram's Chiefs, who were big, fast, and talented. I thought Minnesota would win, but again, all I really wanted was a close game. Shows you what I know. It wasn't really a close game—and it was the Chiefs who won, 23-7.

For the first two years, the game officially had that unwieldly handle, the AFL-NFL World Championship Game. That was my idea. I guess coming up with catchy names wasn't something I was very good at.

Some of the press were calling it the Super Bowl from the start, but I never liked the name. To me, "super" was a corny cliche word that we used during my school days at Compton High in California in the 1940s.

The actual source of "Super" in the Super Bowl name had originated a few years before with the daughter of Lamar Hunt, the Chiefs' owner. At that time, a popular, faddish children's toy was something called a "Super Ball," which bounced dramatically higher than a regular rubber ball. Lamar's daughter had one of those balls, and he liked the name—the twist of "Super Ball" to "Super Bowl"—and he urged that we adopt it. Thankfully we did, and game III was the first official Super Bowl.

I'm the first to admit that I was mis-

taken about the name of the game. Remarkably, "super" takes on a totally different connotation when it is applied to this event. I think the name has played a big part in the game's success.

For me, there was great sadness going into Super Bowl V. In September, just before the start of the 1970 season, Vince Lombardi died after a devastating battle with cancer. Vince was 13 years older than I, but it was like losing a brother. I miss him to this day. Fittingly, the Super Bowl Trophy—that magnificent creation of the Tiffany Company—officially was renamed the Vince Lombardi Trophy before Super Bowl VI.

Coming from a public relations background, I took pleasure in dealing with the media. This was especially true at the Super Bowl, particularly at the early games.

Nowadays, thousands of media people from around the world cover the game, and the closest the commissioner gets to these people is at the giant Friday noon press conference where there's a bank of TV cameras, hundreds of still photographers, and many hundreds of press, radio, and TV representatives. But in those first few years, my contacts with the media were pretty special.

I remember sitting around shooting the breeze with six, seven, eight writers at a time. It seemed to be less serious then, more fun. The game was serious, of course, but that didn't prevent us from kidding around. I have great memories of early sessions with John Steadman from Baltimore, Bob Oates from Los Angeles, Mo Siegel from Washington, Larry Felser from Buffalo, and others.

A lot of things were different then than they are today. In the early years, we had no Super Bowl Site Committee the way we do now. We basically just went with our instincts—and usually that meant Los Angeles, Miami, or New Orleans. The only deviation from those cities the first 15 years was in game VIII, when we played in Rice Stadium at Houston.

The only time I can recall having some reservations about the game site was when we went back to Los Angeles for game VII. Honestly, it took some courage to go back to my hometown after all the empty seats in game I, but I guess by that time we had more confidence in the game as a major event. This time we sold out the Coliseum, the major attraction being whether the Miami Dolphins could complete a perfect 17- 0 season (they did).

We always have had a function of some kind for the media, and for all the people from the clubs and the league the Friday night before the game, but this didn't have the significance in the early years that it did later. In fact, before Super Bowl I, I think our "party" was nothing more than a few plates of cold cuts at the Statler Hilton.

To borrow the trademark phrase of the late Ed Sullivan, I think the first really big show we had was at Super Bowl VII in January, 1973. A couple of years before, the city of Long Beach had purchased the storied ocean liner, the *Queen Mary*, and had turned it into a major tourist attraction. We used the ship as our party site.

We have had some wonderful Friday night parties over the years, including some great ones in New Orleans, a party city on its own. If I had to pick a personal favorite, however, it would be the one we had before Super Bowl XXI in Los Angeles at Universal City. Being on the Universal lot in a movie studio environment was very exciting for many of the visitors.

I'm a real sucker for pageantry. I always liked balloons and balloon releases. In the early years, we also had a lot of pigeon or dove releases. I liked those, too. The fly-overs that we initiated at Super Bowl VI in New Orleans and made part of all other outdoor Super Bowls starting with Super Bowl XVIII in Tampa— also were a big thrill.

I always was involved in our plans for pregame and halftime festivities because it seemed important to me that we make the entire event very special. But I usually let other people pick the person or people who would do the National Anthem. The one time I insisted on an anthem performer was at game XXII when I wanted Herb Alpert to do a "pure" horn version.

Three games in New Orleans—IX, XV, and XX—stand out to me for different reasons. Game IX was the Steelers' first appearance in an NFL Championship Game of any kind after more than four decades of frustration. I am not ashamed to admit that I had tears of joy in my eyes when I presented the trophy to Art Rooney that January, 1975, day. No man ever deserved it more. Of course, I didn't realize at the time that he was going to get greedy and win three more (X, XIII, and XIV)!

On the morning of January 25, 1981, the day of game XV, I remember waking up in my room at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans and seeing a big yellow ribbon our people had put up around the Superdome with bows above the exits. If you remember, people had been wearing yellow ribbons in support of the hostages in Iran, and those hostages were released in Tehran just a few days before Super Sunday.

Game XX between the Bears and the Patriots was memorable for a lot of reasons, most of them generated by the very colorful Bears. The sadness was that Bears owner George Halas was not there to see this great victory; my good friend and an NFL founder had died two years before.

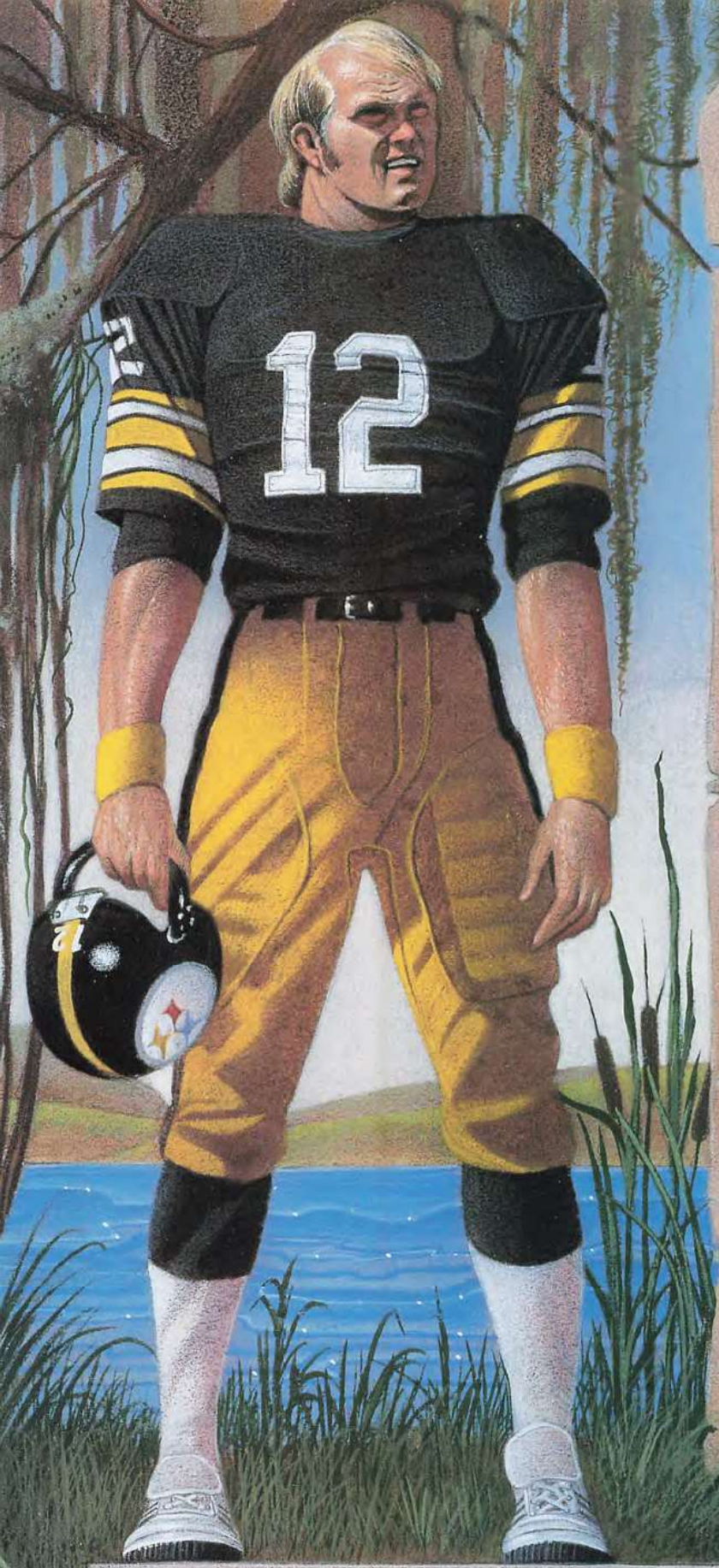
I recall my daughter Anne Marie coming back from an evening in the French Quarter wearing a "ROZELLE" headband. Late in the 1985 regular season, I had to order Bears quarterback Jim McMahon to stop wearing commercial headbands, and he reacted to this by wearing a headband with my name on it in the playoffs. Versions of that headband were big sellers in the city the week before the game.

One of the toughest trophy presentations I had to make was to Al Davis after the Raiders' 38-9 rout of Washington in Super Bowl XVIII in January, 1984. We had been enmeshed in a court battle with Al over the Raiders' move to Los Angeles in 1982. As I was leaving the room, Raiders guard Mickey Marvin tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Not everyone here hates you." That eased the pressure.

All in all, it's been a great ride—from Super Bowl I through my last game as commissioner in XXIII to now. I wish I could literally release some balloons and doves at this point, and maybe even arrange for a fly-over for everyone reading this. You'll have to use your imagination, however.

Or better, like me, keep dreaming Super Bowl dreams. ⚜

PETE ROZELLE



TALES OF T

BY PHIL BARBER

They were two young athletes linked by background, ability, timing, and soft-spoken manners. Terry Bradshaw and Archie Manning: born in the Deep South, with working-class parents and relatives on the farm.

They were fabulous all-around athletes—Bradshaw set a national high school javelin record with a throw of 244 feet 11 inches, Manning was drafted by three major league baseball teams—who nevertheless didn't start at quarterback until their senior years of high school. Neither was highly recruited by college football programs, but both soon would have pro scouts salivating. Bradshaw was the first overall pick of the 1970 NFL draft, Manning was the second pick in 1971, and damn if the South wasn't rising again.

But even as their paths ran parallel, they moved over starkly different terrain.

TERRY BRADSHAW

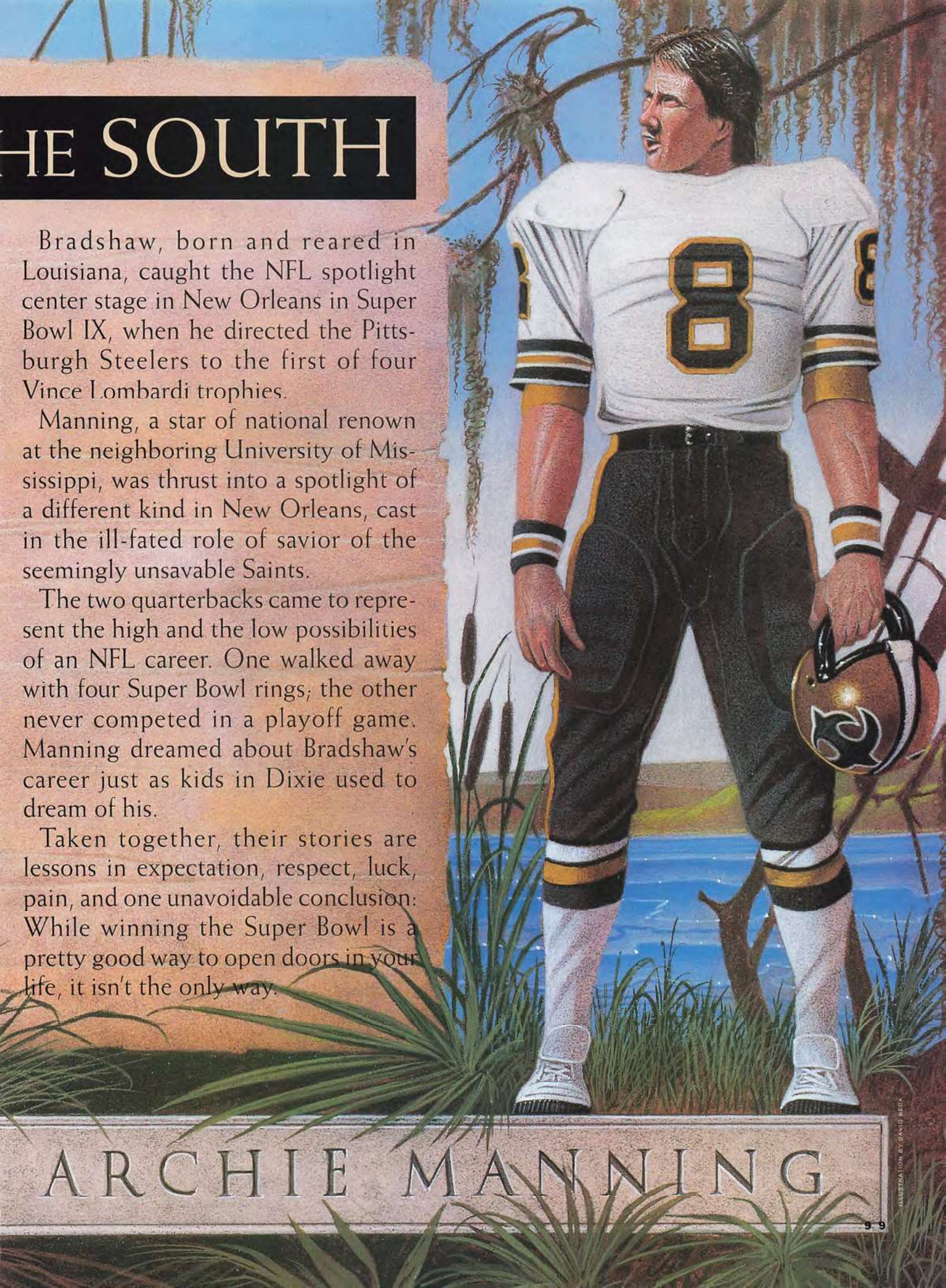
HE SOUTH

Bradshaw, born and reared in Louisiana, caught the NFL spotlight center stage in New Orleans in Super Bowl IX, when he directed the Pittsburgh Steelers to the first of four Vince Lombardi trophies.

Manning, a star of national renown at the neighboring University of Mississippi, was thrust into a spotlight of a different kind in New Orleans, cast in the ill-fated role of savior of the seemingly unsavable Saints.

The two quarterbacks came to represent the high and the low possibilities of an NFL career. One walked away with four Super Bowl rings; the other never competed in a playoff game. Manning dreamed about Bradshaw's career just as kids in Dixie used to dream of his.

Taken together, their stories are lessons in expectation, respect, luck, pain, and one unavoidable conclusion: While winning the Super Bowl is a pretty good way to open doors in your life, it isn't the only way.



ARCHIE MANNING

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID BECK

TERRY

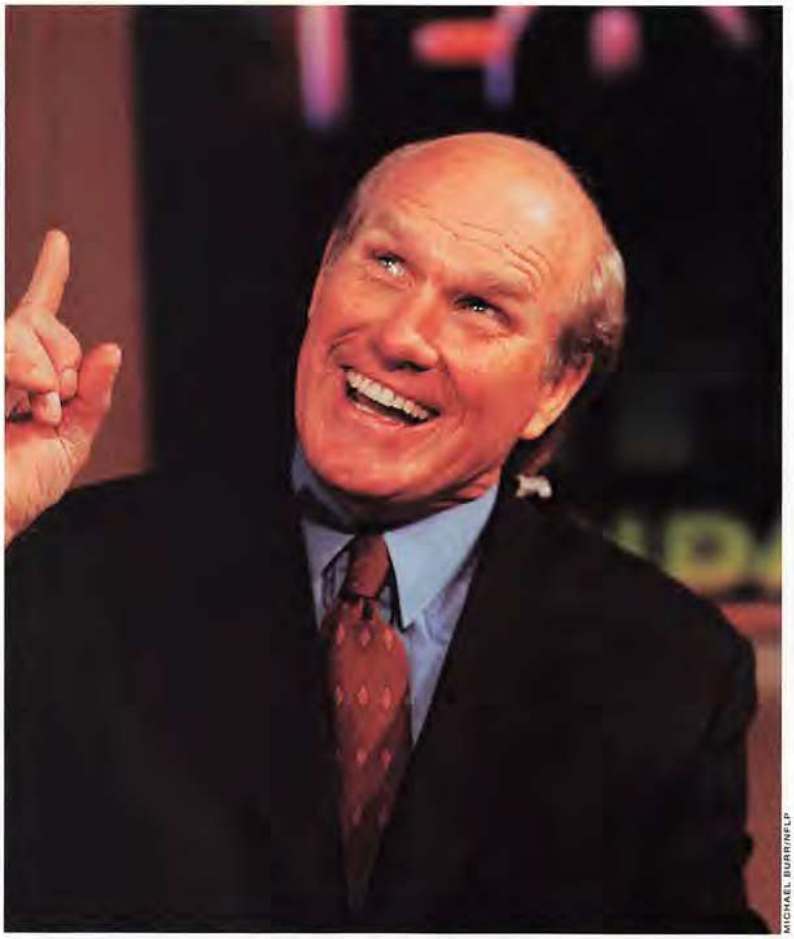
A Super Bowl Hero for Life

It's the kind of tale they tell on benches down by the courthouse on the town square. The story of a local boy from Shreveport, Louisiana, who could throw footballs clear through a plywood wall. He went off to Louisiana Tech and caught the eye of every scout in the NFL. Next thing you know, he takes some down-and-out team to four Super Bowl victories in six years. If the story sounds bigger than life, it is. It's Terry Bradshaw's.

James Brown, not the Godfather of Soul but the father figure of *FOX NFL Sunday*, courageously brandishes his Personal Breeze. Between highlights and updates, he places the battery-operated minifan on the desk in front of him, a small defense against the gusts of cigar smoke that Terry Bradshaw is blowing playfully in his direction.

There is a big bowl of popcorn, a tic-tac-toe of monitors displaying various live NFL games, and a bustle of activity in the offstage shadows.

The attention is on Bradshaw during this break. He is explaining why he sold used cars as a rookie with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1970.



MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

Center of Attention: *Terry Bradshaw, part clown, part voice of authority, always enjoys the limelight in his studio role on FOX-TV.*

"I came home with $6,200 in the bank, then I had to pay taxes," he says. "That pretty much wiped me out. 'Cause I took that $10,000 signing bonus and spent it—bought my mama and daddy furniture for their house, and bought me a car."

"I was a number-two pick," says Howie Long, the rampaging defensive end-turned-collarless pretty face who sits to Bradshaw's left. "I bought a used Coupe de Ville for nine-thousand dollars."

And then, faster than you can say "Madden and Summerall," it is out of control. The FOX set has become a powder keg of anecdotal jabber. Long, innocently enough, has sparked an explosive chain reaction.

"We had an old boy named Craig Hanneman, took his time driving from Oregon to Latrobe [for training camp]," Bradshaw says, warming to the topic. "Dipped Copenhagen. By the time he got to Pittsburgh, he had stained the windows real bad...he was spittin' out onto the side-view mirror. He had a lime-green Plymouth Fury or somethin', and he had streaks runnin' down the side. When he got to Latrobe, he tried to wash it off, and he couldn't. It was stained. So he got him a paint brush and tried to match the color with store-bought house-paint."

"I'll tell you, man, that was a sweet car," Long says, grabbing the wheel again. "It had an eight-track cassette deck."

Now it's Bradshaw: "Oh, yeah! I listened to 'Mama Tried' all the way from Pittsburgh to Shreveport, man, drivin' through Washington, D.C. I got lost. I memorized 'Mama Tried'—Merle Haggard."

Now Long: "I was the only white boy in Oakland with a Coupe de Ville with spoke wheels and velour interior."

Bradshaw: "I bought my first Thunderbird with one

ARCHIE

Always a Winner, Never a Winner

In a much earlier time, in a much different place—Oxford, Mississippi, to be exact—Archie Manning was not just the biggest man on the Mississippi campus, he was the biggest man in the entire state. One of the most glittering quarterbacks to emerge from college football, he was placed on a pedestal by the New Orleans Saints, a team desperately in search of a change of luck. But the quarterback worked no miracles, he brought no good luck. All he did was make lifelong fans.

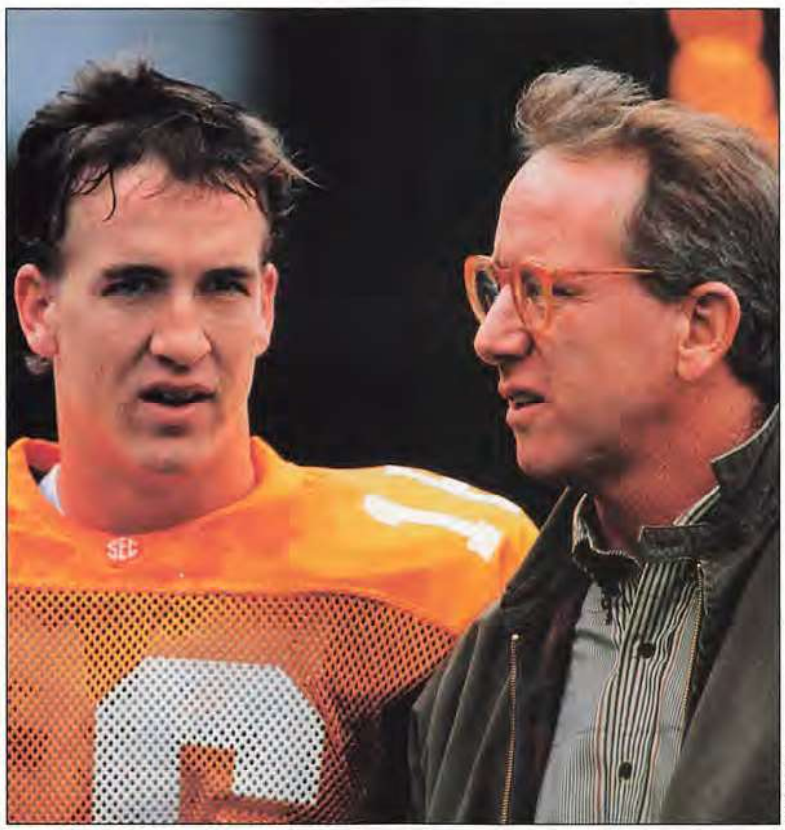
Archie Manning was born in Cleveland. His wife Olivia was born in Philadelphia.

That's Cleveland, Mississippi, and Philadelphia, Mississippi, cousin—as if you couldn't tell from the muddy-river meander of their speech patterns.

The Mannings are living a Deep South edition of the American dream: the football hero and the Ole Miss homecoming queen in a mansion in the Garden District of New Orleans, with their brood of talented sons—one of whom happens to be one of the best college football players in America.

Their life admittedly is fine, but it did not come without hardship. There has been family trauma. In 1970, Archie's father, a farm equipment dealer, killed himself with a shotgun. In 1992, Archie's eldest son Cooper was diagnosed with spinal stenosis, a congenital condition that has left him nearly paralyzed.

In between, Archie Manning carved out a widely respected career while playing quarterback for some of the worst teams in the modern history of the NFL.



Like Father, Like Son: *Peyton (left) and Archie, college stars of different generations, have more than the Manning name in common.*

During Manning's 11-plus seasons with New Orleans, the Saints were a uniquely and creatively awful team. They drafted poorly (see Russell Erxleben), and when they drafted well, they had a tendency to ship off players in their prime (see Wes Chandler). "I've always said Archie was a franchise player without a franchise," Hank Stram says. "He'd be in the Hall of Fame today if he'd had better players around him."

Stram, who coached the Chiefs to three AFL titles and victory in Super Bowl IV, entertained several pro and college offers when he left Kansas City after the 1974 season. "I chose New Orleans because of Archie," he says.

Stram was one of the seven Saints head coaches who worked with Manning. That sort of fickleness rarely leads to anything but a treadmill of disappointment, no matter how highly regarded the coaches are.

In New Orleans, a near .500 season set off delirious, drunken conga lines on Bourbon Street. A journalist once asked Manning what he would choose if he could spend a weekend on *Fantasy Island*. (Hey, this was 1982.) "To be in a playoff game," Manning replied.

That's it? If you're going to suit up for Ricardo Montalban's television show, why not do it in the Super Bowl?

"Well," Archie said, "your goals dip after eleven years."

In 1977, the Saints did something no other NFL team had done. They lost to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who had lugged a franchise mark of 0-26 into

of them retractable roofs—4,800 bucks, brand new."

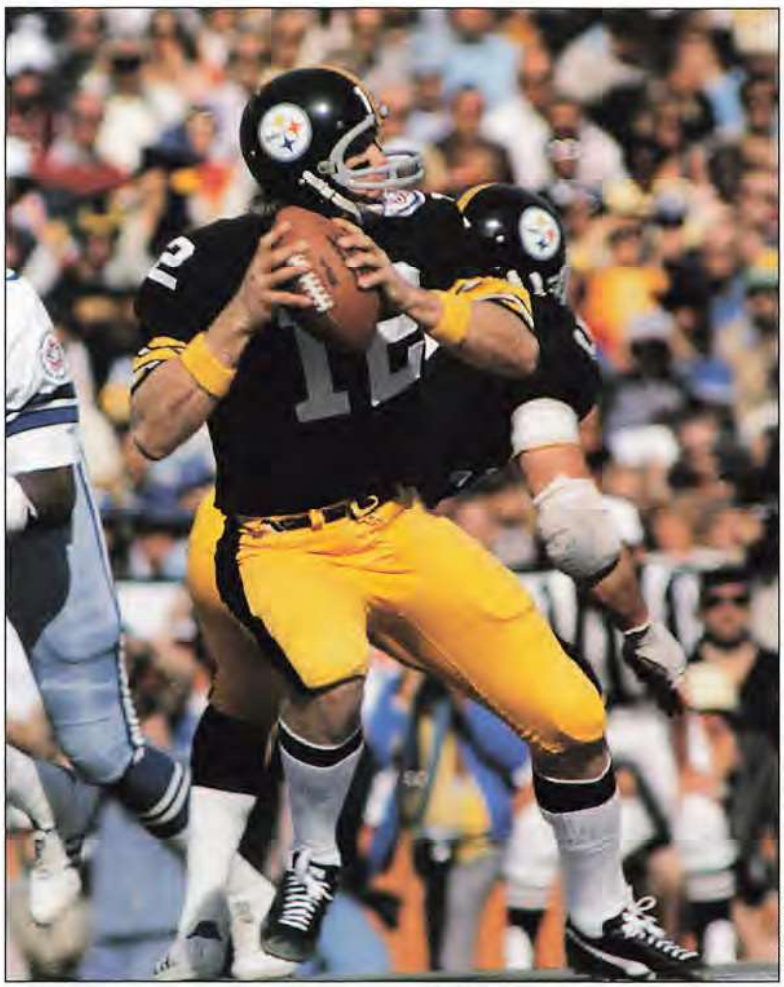
Long: "It's called a convertible."

Bradshaw: "No, no, it had one of them little sunroofs. Yeah, big time. Fake-alligator top on it...maroon interior, maroon outside...spoke wheels...spinner caps. It looked *good*."

Welcome to FOX football's "stadium in the round," where the inmates occasionally seem to be running the asylum. And at the center of the hubbub, constantly driving the action and spurring his co-hosts, is Bradshaw—part clown, part voice of authority, enduringly likable to both this small in-studio audience as well as the more than 5 million football gluttons who watch him regularly.

Bradshaw was one of the first personalities FOX hired when it paid $1.6 billion for a four-year NFC television package in December, 1993, and he has become a symbol of the network's unrestricted, sometimes goofy, broadcasts.

"It's so up, so moving," Bradshaw says of the FOX style. "Their approach was: Let's entertain the masses. There are people out there who have been working all week. Let them relax, have a few yuks. You know—we'll cover the NFL, but we'll cover it with a smile."



VERNON BIEVER

Steel Town Star: *Solidly built and seemingly indestructible, Bradshaw turned out to be a perfect fit for blue-collar Pittsburgh.*

And not a pasted-on smile, either. FOX lives and dies with spontaneity. The sequence of the dialogue may be scripted—for example, from Brown to Ronnie Lott (the former NFL safety) to Long to Bradshaw—but each player keeps his cards hidden until it's time to show. "If I told you I knew what was going to come out of Terry's mouth, I'd be lying," says Ed Goren, executive producer of FOX Sports.

Goren, like Bradshaw, was part of the CBS team prior to 1994. Both men seem to have been liberated by the risky jump.

"At CBS," Bradshaw says, "I was told that if you act like this, you lose your credibility: 'Funny Southern people are not intelligent people.' So they pretty much kept their foot on top of me. But it would always slip out. And FOX saw it when it slipped out."

It slipped out long before Bradshaw moved into the studio. He was doing color commentary for CBS in the late eighties when he noticed how long Kirk Lowdermilk's legs were. Lowdermilk was the Minnesota Vikings' center, and Bradshaw was vocally envious.

"Terry had Mike Webster, who was built like a frog, as his center," says Verne Lundquist, Bradshaw's play-by-play man at the time and later the person who introduced him at his Pro Football Hall of Fame induction. "Terry had to crouch down so low he couldn't see over the linebackers."

After a commercial break, startled viewers were treated to an impromptu show-and-tell. "I'm the center!" Lundquist says. "I'm wearing a coat and a tie, and my butt is about six inches from the ground. I was cracking up.

"It was crazy, but I'm five-foot-ten, and it gave a great demonstration of Terry's point."

Whether they are instructive or just entertaining, stunts such as that one have been part of Bradshaw's routine for years. His flair for the absurd is legendary. He and his backup quarterback, Terry Hanratty, once went on a radio show with Myron Cope, the dean of Pittsburgh's sports media, with a conspiracy to say absolutely nothing.

"I'd ask a question and I'd get dead silence," Cope says. "Or one of them would ask the other, 'Where'd you get those baloney sandwiches?' They drove me crazy for twenty minutes."

Even better was a live report Cope did from the Steelers' locker room a couple of days before Super

the contest. Sons Cooper and Peyton Manning once turned to their mother in the home stands and innocently asked, "Can we boo, too?"

Disappointment hit rock bottom in 1980, when the Saints became the 'Aints, and paper bags became *de rigeur* headwear in the Louisiana Superdome. The team went 1-15 that year. In one of the losses, second-year quarterback Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers from a 35-7 deficit to a 38-35 overtime victory. That stands as the greatest regular-season comeback in NFL history—or the worst collapse, depending on your perspective.

Things got so bad in 1980 that someone tried to give away two tickets to a Saints game by leaving them under his windshield wiper in a public parking lot. "When he got back to his car," a friend reported, "there were six tickets."

Archie Manning's biggest mistake that season was agreeing to appear on a radio phone-in show every Monday night at 6 o'clock. About five losses into the season, when the calls began to take the tone of "Why don't ya'll jump off the Huey Long Bridge," Manning and co-host Wayne Mack started meeting across the street for an anesthetizing beer.

"By the end of the year," Archie says, "we were meeting at five and taking a six-pack with us. You could hear them being opened—tsssshh—on the air. Oh, it was tough, golly."

In the tragicomic conditions of 1980, Manning quietly established personal bests for touchdown passes and yards, ranking sixth in the NFC with a passer rating of 81.8. It can be stated with utter certainty that no quarterback ever had a better year for a worse team.

"I love to watch football on television," Manning says, "but it got to the point where I didn't want to watch other teams in the playoffs. Because you see players quarterbacking in a playoff game, and you say, 'I really think I'm as good as that guy.'"

Jeff Kemp started an NFL playoff game during Manning's tenure. So did Scott Brunner, Eric Hipple, Cliff Stoudt, Gifford Nielsen, and Bob Avellini. They deserved their opportunities, too, but you can forgive Manning for being a little bitter about the exclusion. Or you could forgive him, if he possessed an ounce of bitterness.

"People now look back and say, 'God, you went through fifteen years of just misery,'" Manning says. "But I really didn't.

"Organizations that continue to lose always change coaches every two or three years. And then you get a new, optimistic feeling—you know, you've got a new coach, got a new system, some new players, and here we go."

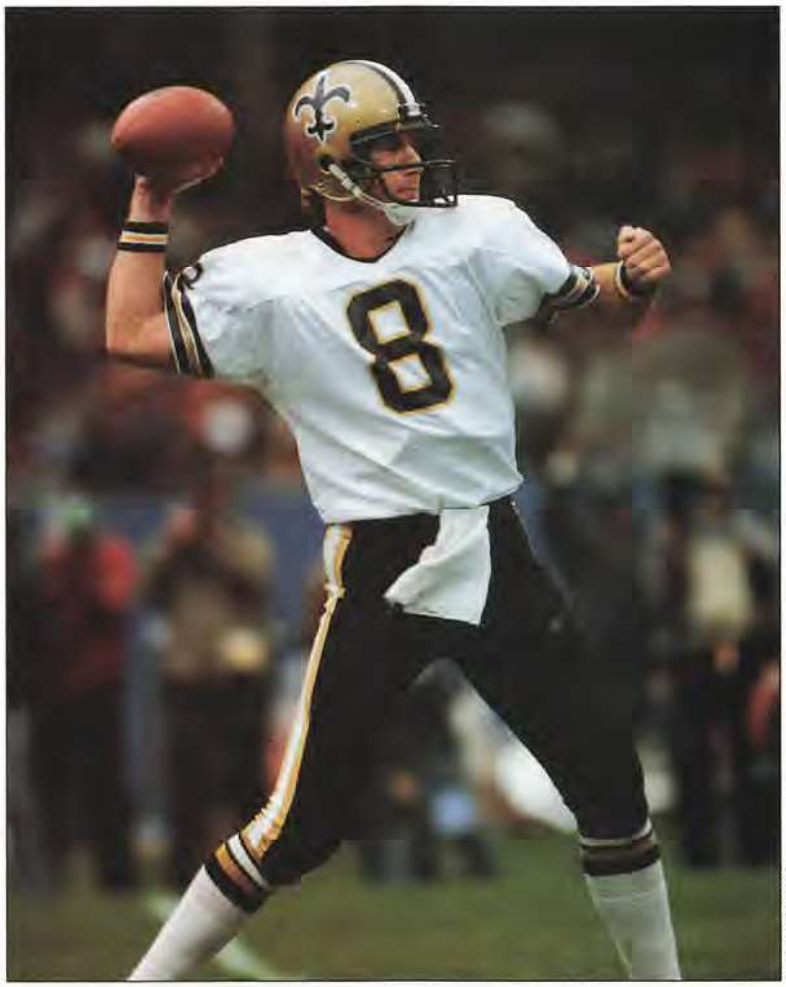
Manning had a helpful epiphany in 1976, after two operations to correct the tendinitis in his right shoulder, a malady that forced him to miss that entire season.

"See, when I had that second operation, most people thought I was through," he says. "And, gosh, I hadn't played very long, and I think I was taking football for granted. You know, one of these deals where you think you're gonna play forever. My thoughts were: 'If I get a chance to play again, I'm never gonna take it for granted. I'm gonna make every day count, enjoy it.' And I did.

"I had a full career. I wouldn't swap it for anything."

"The thing is, he never brought his sorrows home," Peyton Manning says. "He was always happy to be around us, even if he lost. He'd trick us into seeing who could give him the best massage. That was one way he found to spend time with us—and get some of the soreness out, I guess."

Archie admits he never could have survived those



Saints' Savior: *Manning's college reputation preceded him to New Orleans, where he was expected to change the Saints' fortunes.*

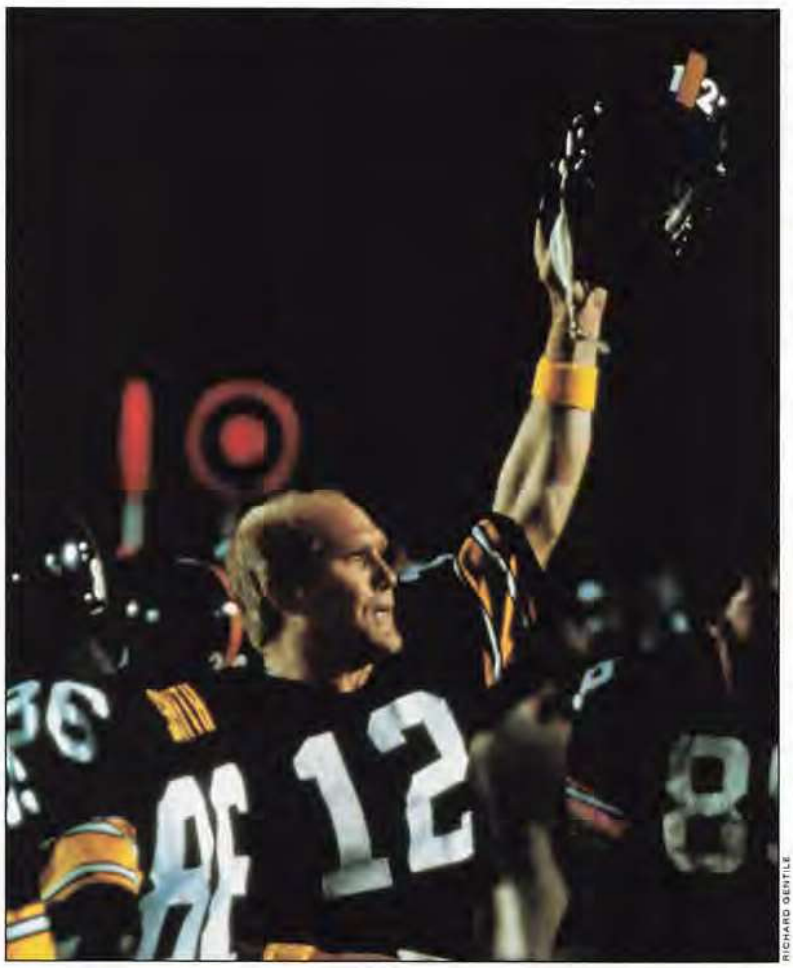
Bowl XIV. Bradshaw was incensed that Vince Ferragamo, the Rams' young quarterback, had audaciously predicted Los Angeles would win. So he interrupted the broadcast, yelling, "Hey, Mr. Cope! I'm Vinny Ferragamo, and I'd like to be on your show."

Cope played along, and Bradshaw turned in a camp classic that Mel Brooks might have envied. He even swiped at Ferragamo's stated medical-school aspirations, referring to himself as Dr. Ferragamo. "I'm the handsomest football player and doctor you've ever seen," Bradshaw chirped, "and if you write to me, I'll send you a photo of me in my surgical gown."

You hear stories like that, you see Bradshaw waving his arms and rolling his blue eyes on *FOX NFL Sunday*, and you can't help but ask: Is this all a put-on? Is the real Terry Bradshaw standing up, or are we watching the David Letterman of sports—a man who plays the happy minstrel with the cameras rolling, then sits sullen and alone during the breaks?

"He wakes up that way," Lundquist says. "There's no switch he has to turn on."

Former teammates, FOX executives, and business associates all say the same thing: When you buy Terry Bradshaw, what you see is what you get.



Simply Super: *A four-time winner with the Steelers and a two-time MVP, Bradshaw says he treasures all of his Super Bowl memories.*

Perhaps that natural gregariousness and wit—combined, to be fair, with effort—are what make Bradshaw such a popular choice on the speakers' tour. He does 35 to 40 motivational speeches a year, most of them during the NFL offseason.

"My man can retire comfortably," says Long, who is awed by Bradshaw's power to win hearts. "By the time he's done with the speech, it's like a church revival. People are standing and screeching."

Pete DiDomenico is staff vice president of the nonprofit Employee Relocation Council. He has booked a small army of fired-up cheerleaders over the years, and in the sports genre, he says the three best he's ever seen are Lou Holtz, the late Jim Valvano, and Bradshaw.

In 1993, Bradshaw addressed guests of the ERC in Orlando. "He wasn't feeling well that night, but he held the audience in the palm of his hand for an hour," DiDomenico says. "By the end of the speech he was literally soaking wet, from his head to his waist."

Not surprisingly, Bradshaw draws most of his material from that bottomless well of motivational pulp: the Super Bowl. "Super Bowls represent everything corporate America is," he says, "from a plan, to the challenge, to selling the plan to the people involved. It's third-and-ten, overcoming adversity. Every ounce, every fiber—the common denominators for success in all walks of life—you gather from a Super Bowl experience."

It is not an empty sermon that Bradshaw delivers. He won four Super Bowls with the Steelers. Until Joe Montana came along, he owned Super Bowl career records for passing yards and touchdowns. And because Bradshaw did it all in a six-year span, his identity has been folded into the texture of America's biggest game during its most memorable era, the 1970s.

"I'll be honest with you," Bradshaw says. "I absolutely treasure my Super Bowl memories."

He recalls the locker-room elation and his surprisingly tempered postgame celebrations, which usually took the form of sipping Cold Duck and playing cards with his family.

He remembers the touchdown passes (or most of them; he lay on the ground, concussed, when Lynn Swann made the biggest catch of Super Bowl X) and the defensive stands. He also retains the odd images

years without his family, especially the stabilizing presence of Olivia. "If it was a tough loss and a real frustrating time, she was who I wanted to be with when it was over," he says. "And if we upset someone and won one, she was who I wanted to be with then, too."

In September, 1982, the Saints did the unthinkable: They traded Archie Manning.

Bum Phillips was the new head coach, and in his second season he got busy cleaning out the stable and bringing in some of the horses who had carried him so far in Houston. When he shipped Manning to the Oilers for offensive tackle Leon Gray, one New Orleans fan had seen enough. He climbed atop a street sign and changed SAINTS DRIVE to EX-OILERS DRIVE.

A year later, Manning was peddled again—to the Vikings. The bouncing was hard on everyone. The family joined him in Minnesota in 1983, and when Olivia went to McDonald's and ordered a quahtuhr pownduhr in that lilting voice, the boys working the drive-through would ask her to talk some more for them.

As much as the initial trade hurt Archie, it did seem like a fresh start and a chance to be recast as a winner. So what happened? During three fractured seasons and one 57-day players' strike, his adoptive teams went 10-30.

After the 1984 season, Manning called it quits. He had played 14 years, and in that span his teams won 55 games, lost 145, and tied 3. All told, he was sacked 393 times, a numbing ratio of 1 sack for every 9.27 pass attempts. (Dave Krieg, who has been sacked more times than any quarterback in NFL history, has gone down once every 10.6 attempts.) And the pounding was not relegated to Manning's psyche.

"Everybody has injuries," he says. "I guess I was pretty fortunate, actually."

Uh, yeah, like that dog who answers to the name Lucky. "I can't tell you how many photos I've seen of us helping him off the field, with every kind of condition," Dean Kleinschmidt, the Saints long-time trainer, says of the guy who served as best man at his wedding.

Besides the tendinitis and a thyroid condition that knocked him out in Minnesota, Manning variously suffered a foot fracture, a broken nose, a pulled thigh muscle, a busted-up knee, and injuries to his arm and ankle. He had sprains, twists, and heat cramps. In 1977, he spent Christmas slurping egg nog with his jaw wired shut, a present from the Atlanta Falcons.

PAUL JASIENSKI

Painful Experience: *Victimized by poor pass protection (he was sacked 393 times), Manning took a pounding in his 14-year career.*

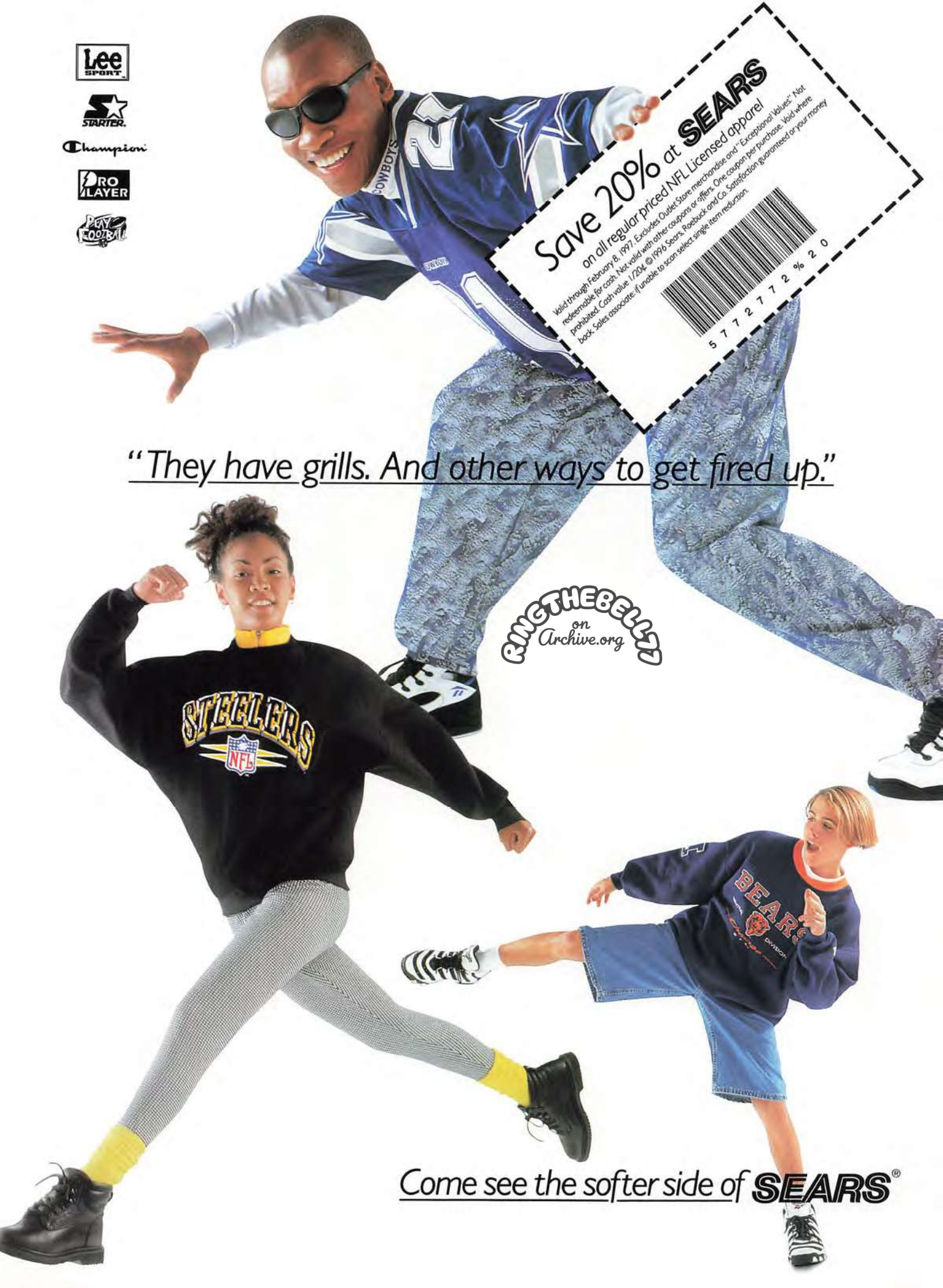
Not that all of his injuries can be blamed on poor pass protection. Even as a boy, Manning was a regular at the emergency room. He suffered a broken ankle in the eighth grade, a broken right arm in the tenth, and a broken left arm in the eleventh.

Manning was, in fact, a surprisingly frail child. Embarrassed by his physique, he refused to swim in public without a T-shirt. When he played Babe Ruth baseball, he was teased so mercilessly about his skinny legs that he took to wrapping Ace bandages under his socks. Even as a high school senior he was 6 feet 2 inches and a lean 160 pounds.

Manning's life orbited around sports. His uncles, two bachelor farmers, were rabid boosters, their acreage littered with baseballs, footballs, basketballs, gloves, and bats—all for Archie.

The high school coaches knew him long before he was their star athlete. There just were not many strangers in Drew, a Mississippi town of 2,000 in Sunflower County, right there on U.S. Route 49W, about halfway between Pentecost and Rome. They say Man-

Continued on page 111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Super Bowl IX: As Bradshaw waited for the pregame introductions, a Vikings' fan keeled over with a heart attack just yards away. Bradshaw still doesn't know if the guy lived or died.

Super Bowl X: His most vivid recollection is Tom Sullivan's "beautiful" rendition of the National Anthem.

Super Bowl XIII: Hours before what Bradshaw calls "my shining moment in all of sports," the Steelers' team bus was stopped at the entrance to the Orange Bowl—to give way to the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders and their police escort.

Super Bowl XIV: In the week of build-up, the hotel in which the Steelers stayed in Los Angeles repeatedly aired the movie *Heaven Can Wait*, which assumed an ominous tone in its portrayal of a young Rams quarterback who beats the Steelers in the Super Bowl. (Alas, Ferragamo had no divine intervention.)

"To me, it's like: I've had four great moments in my life," Bradshaw says. "That doesn't include personal moments—children and marriages. But, professionally, I had four great moments—four. Most people don't have one."

When the 0-7 Bears met the 1-6 Steelers in 1969, the game was called the Bradshaw Bowl. The loser almost certainly would end up with the first pick in the NFL draft that January, and everyone knew that would be Bradshaw, a big-boned passer who had managed to attract national attention in the unlikely locale of Ruston, Louisiana, home of Louisiana Technical University.

The Steelers lost the game and won an ensuing coin toss, precisely the correct formula for acquiring Bradshaw. They called him "The Blond Bomber" and "Terrific Terry," and he was supposed to lift a franchise that hadn't won an NFL championship, or even a playoff game, in 37 years of existence.

"This may sound corny," center Ray Mansfield once said, "but when I look back on it, I guess we felt the way the Jews must have felt when they heard Moses was gonna lead 'em to the Promised Land."

Moses never threw up on his linemen's shoes, though. That's how Bradshaw's rookie season began as he succumbed to high humidity, 95-degree heat, and jangled nerves during a preseason game in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana. The year ended in Philadelphia, where the kid was pressed into emergency punting duty. The Eagles blocked his first punt and recovered it for a touchdown; his next one went 17 yards.

Between those two treacherous end points lay a minefield of a season. Bradshaw completed only 38 percent of his passes. He threw 24 interceptions against 6 touchdowns, and he hated every minute of it—on the field or in the sooty streets.

Continued on page 113

A Star Is Born: *From his earliest high school football days in Shreveport, Louisiana (above), Bradshaw had the right stuff.*

Hours before what Bradshaw calls "my shining moment in sports," the Steelers' team bus was stopped at the entrance of the Orange Bowl to give way to the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

SOME WHO DID

SUPER BOWL: SHORTCUT TO CANTON?

How does an NFL player get into the Pro Football Hall of Fame? There are no hard-and-fast rules, but here's a tidbit worth noting: Of the 64 enshrinees who played a majority of their games since the 1966 season (the Super Bowl's inception), 50 played in at least one Super Bowl.

A further look shows it helps not only to play in a Super Bowl, but to be on a winning team. Only five players who were on the losing end of at least two Super Bowls are part of Canton's roll call, compared to 23 players with two or more rings.

The Minnesota Vikings, who reached the Super Bowl four times in an eight-year span during the sixties and seventies, can lay claim to just two Hall-of-Fame players (defensive tackle Alan Page and quarterback Fran Tarkenton).

How important is it to be on a winner? "Notoriety has a lot to do with being inducted," says John Hannah, a Hall-of-Fame guard for New England from 1973-1985. "The Super Bowl gives you that. There are a lot of great players who did not play in the Super Bowl who should be in the Hall of Fame. But they lack the notoriety."

For the fortunate 50 who have experienced both the camaraderie of playing on a Super Bowl team and the personal satisfaction of election to the Hall of Fame, the experiences elicit unusual reactions.

"When I found out I had been elected [to the Hall of Fame]," former wide receiver Lance Alworth says, "I called my parents in New Mexico. I told my dad, 'Your son has just been elected to the...' I couldn't get the rest out because I was crying. Mom wasn't home then, and I told Dad that I wanted to tell her myself. But when I tried, the words wouldn't come out then, either."

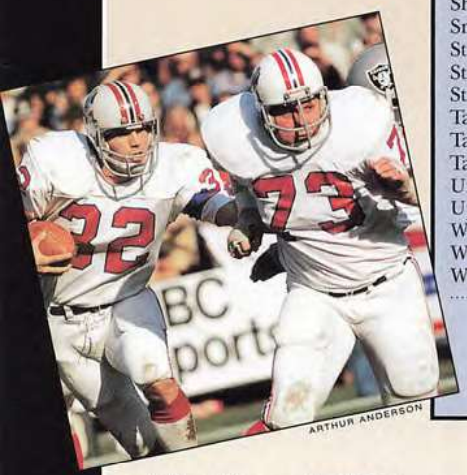
After playing eight seasons at tight end with the Chicago Bears and Philadelphia Eagles, Mike Ditka was thrilled to get traded to the Super Bowl-bound Cowboys late in his career. "Going to Dallas was like going to Heaven," Ditka says. "In one move I went from a team going nowhere to a team that was one of the best in pro football. I had had all of the personal honors and those were nice, but what I really wanted was a chance to go to the Super Bowl."

Matt Marini

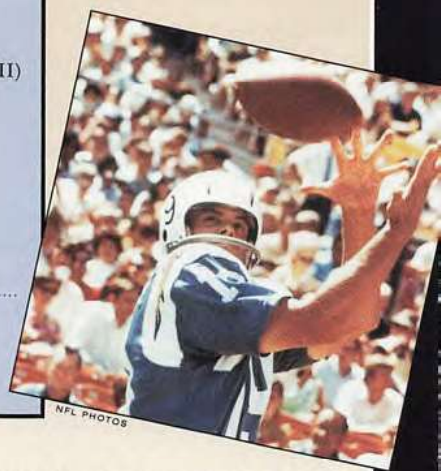
HALL OF FAME
MEMBERS WHO HAVE PLAYED IN THE SUPER BOWL

Name	*Position~*	*Record^*	*Team(s) (Game(s))*
Adderley, Herb	CB	3-1	Packers (I, II), Cowboys (V, VI)
Alworth, Lance	WR	1-0	Cowboys (VI)
Bell, Bobby	LB	1-1	Chiefs (I, IV)
Biletnikoff, Fred	WR	1-1	Raiders (II, XI)
Blanda, George	K	0-1	Raiders (II)
Blount, Mel	CB	4-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Bradshaw, Terry	QB	4-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Brown, Willie	CB	1-1	Raiders (II, XI)
Buchanan, Buck	DT	1-1	Chiefs (I, IV)
Csonka, Larry	RB	2-1	Dolphins (VI. VII. VIII)
Davis, Willie	DE	2-0	Packers (I, II)
Dawson, Len	QB	1-1	Chiefs (I, IV)
Ditka, Mike	TE	1-1	Cowboys (V, VI)
Dorsett, Tony	RB	1-1	Cowboys (XII, XIII)
Greene, Joe	DT	4-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Gregg, Forrest	T	2-0	Packers (I, II), Cowboys (VI*)
Griese, Bob	QB	2-1	Dolphins (VI, VII, VIII)
Ham, Jack	LB	3-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV*)
Hannah, John	G	0-1	Patriots (XX)
Harris, Franco	RB	4-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Hendricks, Ted	LB	4-0	Colts (V), Raiders (XI, XV, XVIII)
Hornung, Paul	RB	n/a	Packers (I*)
Jordan, Henry	DT	2-0	Packers (I, II)
Lambert, Jack	LB	4-0	Steelers (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Langer, Jim	C	2-1	Dolphins (VI, VII, VIII)
Lanier, Willie	LB	1-0	Chiefs (IV)
Lilly, Bob	DT	1-1	Cowboys (V, VI)
Little, Larry	G	2-1	Dolphins (VI, VII, VIII)
Mackey, John	TE	1-1	Colts (III, V)
Maynard, Don	WR	1-0	Jets (III)
Namath, Joe	QB	1-0	Jets (III)
Nitschke, Ray	LB	2-0	Packers (I, II)
Otto, Jim	C	0-1	Raiders (II)
Page, Alan	DT	0-4	Vikings (IV, VIII, IX, XI)
Payton, Walter	RB	1-0	Bears (XX)
Renfro, Mel	DB	2-2	Cowboys (V, VI, X, XII)
Riggins, John	RB	1-1	Redskins (XVII, XVIII)
Shell, Art	T	2-0	Raiders (XI, XV)
Smith, Jackie	TE	0-1	Cowboys (XIII)
Starr, Bart	QB	2-0	Packers (I, II)
Staubach, Roger	QB	2-2	Cowboys (V*, VI, X, XII, XIII)
Stenerud, Jan	K	1-0	Chiefs (IV)
Tarkenton, Fran	QB	0-3	Vikings (VIII, IX, XI)
Taylor, Charley	WR	0-1	Redskins (VII)
Taylor, Jim	RB	1-0	Packers (I)
Unitas, Johnny	QB	1-1	Colts (III, V)
Upshaw, Gene	G	2-1	Raiders (II, XI, XV)
Warfield, Paul	WR	2-1	Dolphins (VI, VII, VIII)
White, Randy	DT	1-2	Cowboys (X, XII, XIII)
Wood, Willie	S	2-0	Packers (I, II)

~ Position played in Super Bowl(s)
^ Reflects record only for games played in
** On active roster but did not play*


ARTHUR ANDERSON

John Hannah (73) *is one of the few inductees without a Super Bowl ring.*


NFL PHOTOS

Lance Alworth's *Hall-of-Fame induction caused him to be overcome with emotion.*

HALL OF FAME PLAYERS REFLECT ON CAREERS WITHOUT SUPER BOWLS

A Hall of Fame career in the NFL does not guarantee a Super Bowl ring. Just ask Deacon Jones, Earl Campbell, or Steve Largent.

All enjoyed long, successful careers without appearing in professional football's biggest game. And they are not alone. There are 13 other members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (see list) who finished their careers after 1972—six years after the first Super Bowl—who never had the opportunity to play for the Vince Lombardi trophy.

From 1961-1971, David (Deacon) Jones terrorized opposing offenses as a member of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fearsome Foursome" defensive line. In succeeding years (1972-74), he played for the San Diego Chargers and Washington Redskins. Also known as the Secretary of Defense, Jones unofficially recorded more than 180 quarterback sacks, played in eight Pro Bowls, and was named all-pro five times.

Although Jones and Rams teammate Merlin Olsen, a defensive tackle who also is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, could almost single-handedly control the outcome of games, they never were able to propel Los Angeles into the Super Bowl.

"Not getting to the championship creates a void inside of you," Jones says. "That's why you play football. You don't play football to make the Hall of Fame, you play to win the Super Bowl."

The Houston Oilers made Texas running back and Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell the first selection in the 1978 NFL draft. Immediately, Campbell transformed the Oilers into Super Bowl contenders.

Campbell won the NFL rushing title in his first two seasons, and in each of those years the Oilers played Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship Game.

Houston, in its first playoff appearance since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, earned a wild-card playoff berth in 1978. The Oilers defeated the Dolphins and Patriots on the road before losing to the Steelers 34-5 for the right to represent the AFC in Super Bowl XIII.

Houston was a wild-card team again in 1979, and again won two games to advance to the AFC title game. In the AFC Championship Game, Pittsburgh defeated the Oilers 27-13 and went on to win its second consecutive Super Bowl.

In his eight-year NFL career with Houston (1978-1984) and New Orleans (1984-85), Campbell rushed for 9,407 yards and 74 touchdowns. He twice was voted the NFL's most valuable player (1978-79), but he never again came close to a Super Bowl.

"The one thing that I do miss now is a Super Bowl ring," Campbell says. "But I wouldn't dare trade my Hall of Fame ring for a Super Bowl ring. Everybody who is on the team gets a Super Bowl ring, but very few people can actually say that they are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame."

It took the Seattle Seahawks only three years to go from expansion team (1976) to winner (9-7 in 1978). By 1983, they had earned a trip to the AFC Championship Game.

One of the leaders for the Seahawks from 1976-1989 was wide receiver Largent. In 14 seasons, Largent caught 819 passes for 13,089 yards, and 100 touchdowns—all NFL career records (since broken). He was selected to the Pro Bowl seven times.

"You can be the greatest player in the history of the NFL, but if you don't play with a team that has put other great players around you, you won't make it to the Super Bowl," Largent says.

Would he trade his Hall of Fame ring for a Super Bowl ring?

"Absolutely," Largent says.

"Last time I checked, football still is a team sport and winning the Super Bowl is the ultimate goal in professional football."

Brian Peterson

STARS WITHOUT SUPER BOWLS

Pro Football Hall of Fame members (retired after 1972) who didn't play in the Super Bowl:

Lem Barney
CB, Detroit Lions 1967-1977

Dick Butkus
LB, Chicago Bears 1965-1973

Earl Campbell
RB, Houston Oilers 1978-1984, New Orleans Saints 1984-85

Dan Dierdorf
T, St. Louis Cardinals 1971-1983

Dan Fouts
QB, San Diego Chargers 1973-1987

Ken Houston
S, Houston Oilers 1967-1972, Washington Redskins, 1973-1980

Jimmy Johnson
CB, San Francisco 49ers 1961-1976

Charlie Joiner
WR, Houston Oilers 1969-1972, Cincinnati Bengals 1972-75, San Diego Chargers 1976-1986

David (Deacon) Jones
DE, Los Angeles Rams 1961-1971, San Diego Chargers 1972-73, Washington Redskins 1974

***Sonny Jurgensen**
QB, Philadelphia Eagles 1957-1963 Washington Redskins, 1964-1974

Leroy Kelly
RB, Cleveland Browns 1964-1973

Steve Largent
WR, Seattle Seahawks 1976-1989

Merlin Olsen
DT, Los Angeles Rams 1962-1976

Lee Roy Selmon
DE, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1976-1984

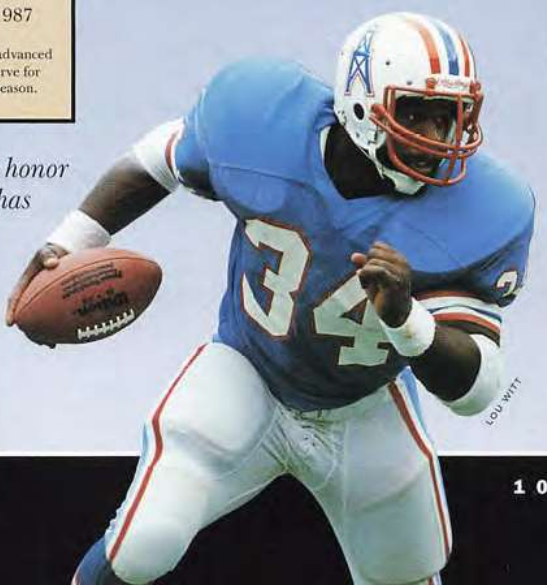
O.J. Simpson
RB, Buffalo Bills 1969-1977, San Francisco 49ers 1978-79

Kellen Winslow
TE, San Diego Chargers 1979-1987

*Jurgensen played for the 1972 Redskins, who advanced to Super Bowl VII, but he was on injured reserve for most of the regular season and all of the postseason.

MALCOLM EMMONS

Close, but no ring: *The honor of playing in a Super Bowl has eluded Deacon Jones (left) and Earl Campbell.*



LOU WITT

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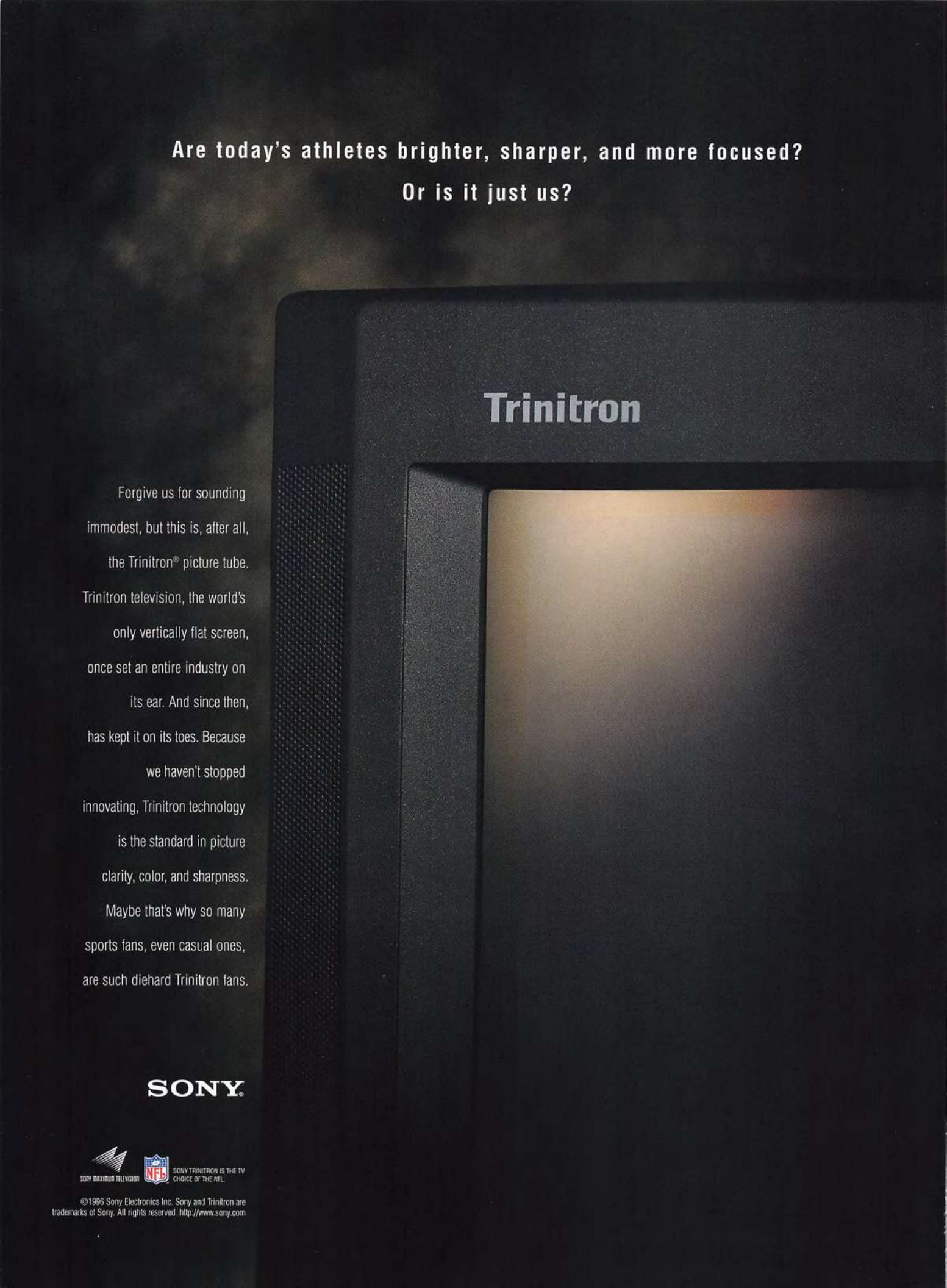
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Continued from page 105

ning went 13 years without missing Sunday school at the First Baptist Church. He drove around town in an old car painted burnt orange and royal blue, the school colors, and on Friday nights he threw touchdown passes at W.M. (Beef) Maxwell Memorial Field.

Oxford, Mississippi, was only 80 miles away, and it was not long before Manning was fulfilling a lifelong dream, playing football for the Rebels of Ole Miss. By his junior season, he was swimming in an alchemist's mixture of performance and circumstance that rewrote the sporting history of the South.

"Mississippi was getting kicked around a little bit nationally," Manning says. "We had a pretty good football team, and for some reason all these things started evolving."

Evolving? It was more like lightning hitting the primordial soup. One day he was one of eight faceless freshman quarterbacks; the next, everyone from Vicksburg to Tupelo (including Governor John Bell Williams) was wearing a red-and-blue button reading "Archie" or "Archie's Army." There were bumper stickers, magazine covers, and "The Ballad of Archie Who," a song written by a postal clerk in Magnolia to the tune of "Folsom Prison Blues."

They try to make a tackle.
They wonder where he went.
Archie Super Manning
Should run for President.

"I'm not sure I've ever spent enough time reflecting on it all," Manning says. "When it happened, we just kind of went through it. It's all kind of a blur now."

Back in Drew, the tree-lined streets crawled with reporters and photographers digging for scraps of Archieana. To Manning's relief, the home folks were far more amused than annoyed.

"My mother's like a rock," he says. Present tense is in order for a woman who still marches off to work every day at the age of 76, the legal secretary for the only law office in Drew. "Sis. We call her Sis. Everybody calls her Sis. I call her Sis. She wouldn't let everybody go too awful crazy."

Sis Manning kept faithful scrapbooks of Archie's exploits. When reporters came calling, she would sit them down and open the books. Archie laughs at the memory of a Chicago sports agent waving goodby—sweaty black jacket on his back, extra-large jar of Sis's homemade pickles in his hands, perplexed look on his face.

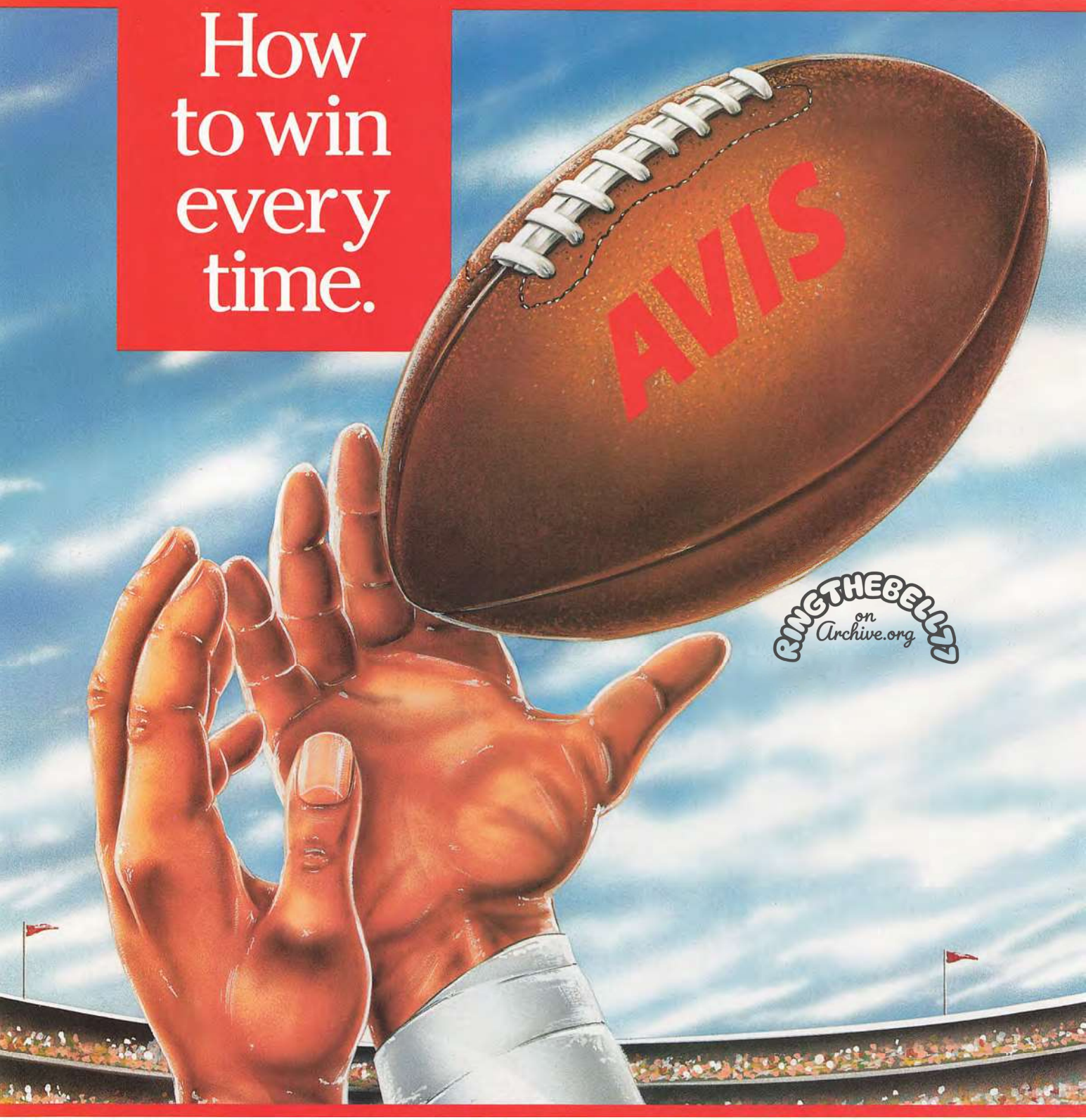
More than a quarter-century later, Manning's collegiate fame enjoys mythic stature. Writer John Grisham, a Mississippi native, has planted small Archie references in two of his novels. Manning was voted Mississippi's All-Time Greatest Athlete, and Quarter-

Continued on page 115

Rebel With a Cause: *Manning's heroics at Mississippi led to the formation of "Archie's Army" and a song written in his honor.*

More than a quarter-century later, Manning's collegiate fame enjoys mythic stature. Writer John Grisham, a Mississippi native, has planted small Archie references in two of his novels.

How to win every time.



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Continued from page 107

"*Ugghh*," he grimaces, free-associating on Pittsburgh, the city that was home to his entire NFL career. "Ugly...dark gray, cloudy skies. What a nightmare. I was homesick. I was everythingsick. People were mean and cruel and crude, and there was no talent around me."

"He became a hermit," Cope says, "and you could hardly blame him. They booed him in night clubs."

It is easy to forget just how long it took Bradshaw to establish himself with the Steelers. At one point he was the third-string quarterback—*in his fifth season*. He did not make an all-pro list until he was 30. Even now, it pains Bradshaw to think of the early years.

"I hated my image," he says. "I didn't feel like the Steelers or my coaching staff—or even some of the players—defended me. I was kind of stuck out there on my own. And I resented it, sure I did. I'm a human being."

His image? It still follows him like a scarlet *D* sewn onto his jacket. Look at the titles of some recent profiles: "The Brilliance of Dumb" in *GQ*; "Who Ever Called Him Dumb?" in *Pittsburgh*; "Dumb Like a FOX" in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Even when they praise him, they pay homage to the image. And here we go again.

Bradshaw unwittingly abetted his detractors, of course. He claims to purposely have flunked his American College Test at Louisiana State because he was afraid of attending a big school. That's what started the dumb talk. And when he joined the Steelers, he was so wide-eyed, so eager to please the reporters, that he'd end up as the butt of his own jokes.

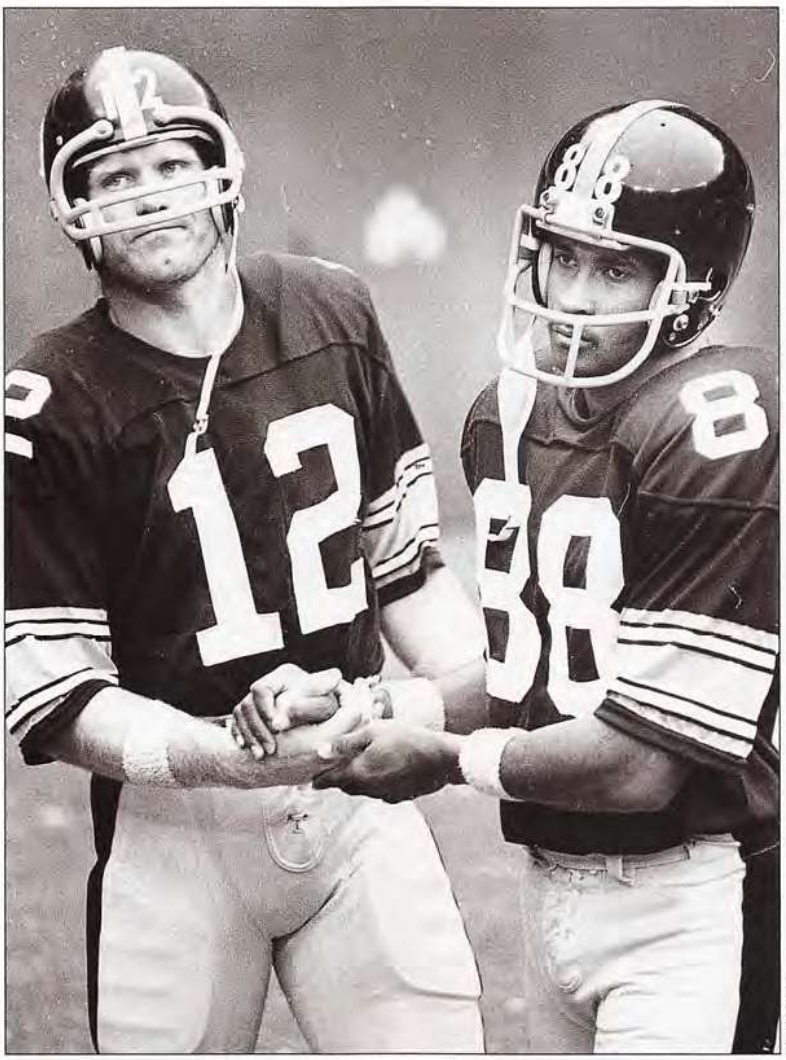
"He was like Dizzy Dean," Cope says. "They didn't have media guides in Dean's day, and a reporter would ask him the date and place he was born and Dean would give him an answer. Then another reporter would ask the same question, and he'd give him a completely different answer. He said he wanted every writer to have an exclusive.

"Bradshaw was the same way."

His teammates, those who took the time to know him, realized from the start that Bradshaw wasn't stupid, just greener than Astro-Turf. This was a young man who never had lined up with or against a black player, never had a taste of beer or wine, until his junior year of college. The only bowl game in which he played at Louisiana Tech was the Grantland Rice Bowl, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. And this was your savior?

"I don't think he really excelled until he became more relaxed with who he was," says John Stallworth, Bradshaw's former teammate and passing target and now the president of Madison Research, an engineer-

Continued on page 116



Dynamic Duo: *The passing combination of Bradshaw-to-Lynn Swann was enough to strike fear in the hearts of any secondary.*

It is easy to forget just how long it took Bradshaw to establish himself with the Steelers. He did not make an all-pro list until he was 30. Even now, it pains him to think of the early years.

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Continued from page 111

back of the Century in the Southeastern Conference.

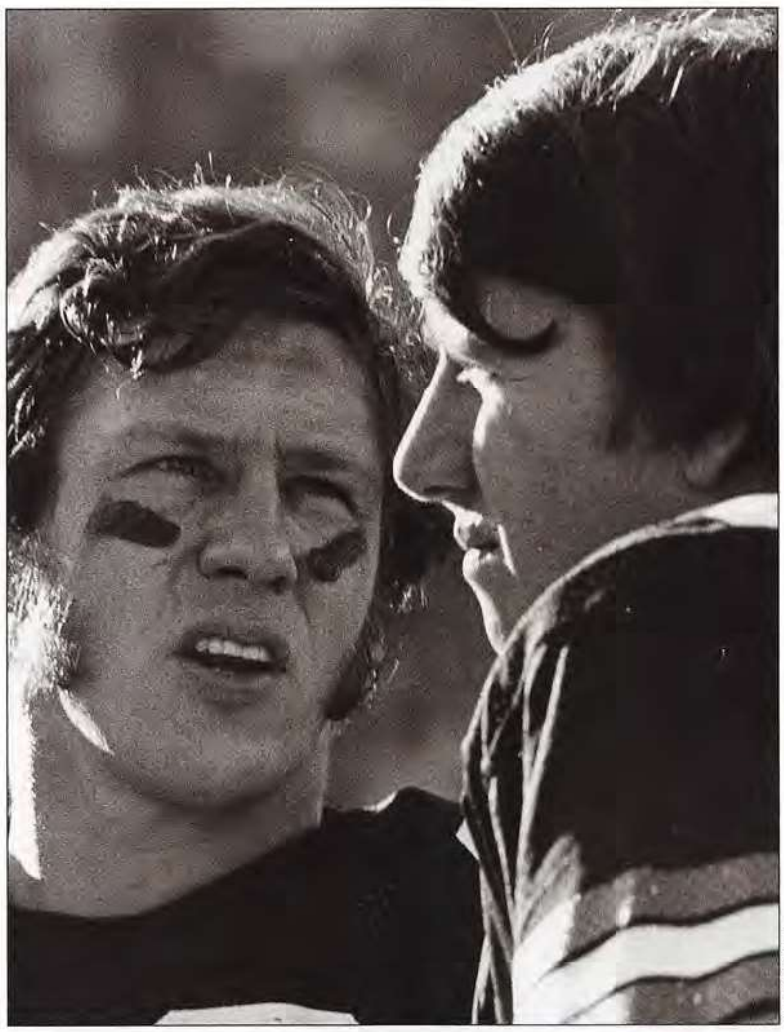
How curious, how perfect, that the best quarterback now in the Southeastern Conference bears an uncanny resemblance to Archie Who. He's got the Delta accent, the reddish hair, the scrapbooks. When the ol' man was at Ole Miss, young couples from all over the South mailed in baby photos and giddy notes explaining how they'd named their sons Archie. Now the envelopes come to the University of Tennessee, and the newborns are named Peyton.

Peyton and Cooper Manning spent their early childhoods in the nexus of football, waddled in tow when their dad went to the Saints' facilities for a workout. (Eli, the youngest son, was not yet 4 when Archie played his final NFL game.) Trainers and assistant coaches were extended family. The boys would act like big shots—get their ankles taped or sit in the whirlpool. After games they'd scrounge for loose tape in the locker room, roll it into a ball, and go deep on the artifical turf of the Superdome.

"The equipment guys would put gum and candy bars in all the players' lockers," Peyton says. "Some of them didn't eat it, so we'd collect all that."

Fifteen years later, Peyton is drawing predictable comparisons. He's 2½ inches taller than his father, and he plays about 15 pounds heavier. Word is that Archie might have been a better all-around athlete, but Peyton has a stronger arm and a quicker release.

"To tell you the honest truth, I don't think I'll ever be as good a player as he was," Peyton says. "He was just great. But I can try to be the same kind of person he was."



DAVE BOSS/NFLP

Pass Masters: *Danny Abramowicz (left), Manning's favorite receiver in New Orleans, describes his former teammate as "genuine."*

Indeed, the Manning work ethic has displayed a genetic component. At Ole Miss, Archie was renowned for his ability to pass while running to his left; he cultivated the skill by plopping down on one knee and throwing footballs for 30 minutes a day. At Tennessee, Peyton watches film every afternoon and studies hard enough to maintain a 3.5 grade-point average (out of a possible 4.0) in speech communication. Archie was the first person to arrive for offseason workouts with the Saints. Peyton's roommates call him the Caveman, his bedroom the Cave because of his tendency to hibernate with a playbook or a textbook.

The whole phenomenon is making Southern football fans nostalgic. Many of them do not see a sequel so much as a second act following a long intermission. This time, they hope, the plot will not play out so dreadfully in the pros. The father will be redeemed by the son.

"A lot of people have said, 'It'd be great if you could win for him, too,'" Peyton acknowledges. "But that's

Continued on page 118

"To tell you the honest truth, I don't think I'll ever be as good a player as he [Archie] was," Peyton says. "He was just great. But I can try to be the same kind of person he was."

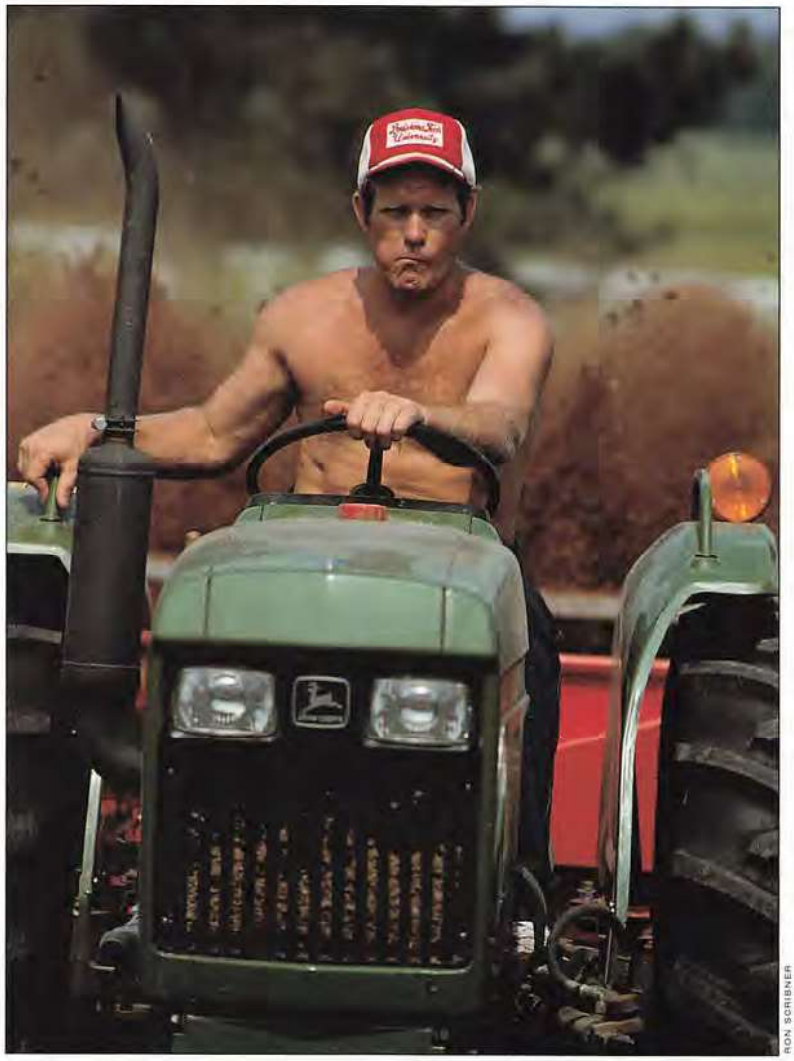
Continued from page 113

ing firm he founded in 1986. "He got comfortable just being Terry Bradshaw from Louisiana, a farm boy and a small-town guy."

It's a funny business. Bradshaw stopped trying to be someone else, and his play improved; and when his play improved, no one wanted him to be someone else. Suddenly, his Southern accent and pie-eating grin were hot commodities.

He made three record albums in the 1970s, a country album that is unanimously deprecated (he recorded the whole LP in one three-hour take) and two gospel albums of which Bradshaw is much prouder. He has been at it again lately. He recently released a Christmas album for kids, a duet single with Glen Campbell ("You Never Know How Good You Got It..."), and a collaboration with Jake Hess, a legend of blue-eyed gospel and one of Bradshaw's heroes.

He did television and movies, too. He had a failed pilot for a series called *Stockers*, about dirt-oval drivers, and appearances on *Hardcastle and McCormick* and *Evening Shade*. He befriended Burt Reynolds and got parts in *Smokey and the Bandit*, *Cannonball Run*, and *Hooper*. (Or have you forgotten the famous line: "Hey, Buddy, I put fifty cents in that jukebox and all I can hear is your lips flappin'"?)



RON SCRIBNER

Country Boy: *The small-town farm boy who found fame in the NFL still enjoys the wide-open spaces on his Circle 12 ranch.*

It wasn't all fine art, but, hey, it was fun—and that's all Bradshaw ever really figured to get out of it. If people were willing to put a guitar in his hand just because he passed for 318 yards in the Super Bowl, why not grab it and strum?

"Everything I have is because of football, and I appreciate it," Bradshaw says. "I don't take it for granted. The albums? I can sing, but.... And can I act? I'm not gonna embarrass myself. But all of that is the product of being a famous football player."

And the product continues to multiply. He owns the Circle 12, a 400-acre ranch of green, rolling hills near Holly, Louisiana. He owns 15 brood mares, four yearlings, two paint mares, a paint gelding, a cutting horse, a roping horse, a world-class stallion named Concention, and a miniature named Petey. He has about 100 head of beef cattle, some of which he grazes on 500 acres leased from Ross Perot, Jr.

Bradshaw's extracurricular pursuits lean to the rural. He was a town kid, but his happiest times were the weekends spent in Hall Summit, Louisiana, on the 40-acre farm of his "Mamaw and Papaw." They had animals, crops, a salt shed, and a two-hole outhouse, and Bradshaw was in hog heaven.

"I love Louisiana with a passion," he says.

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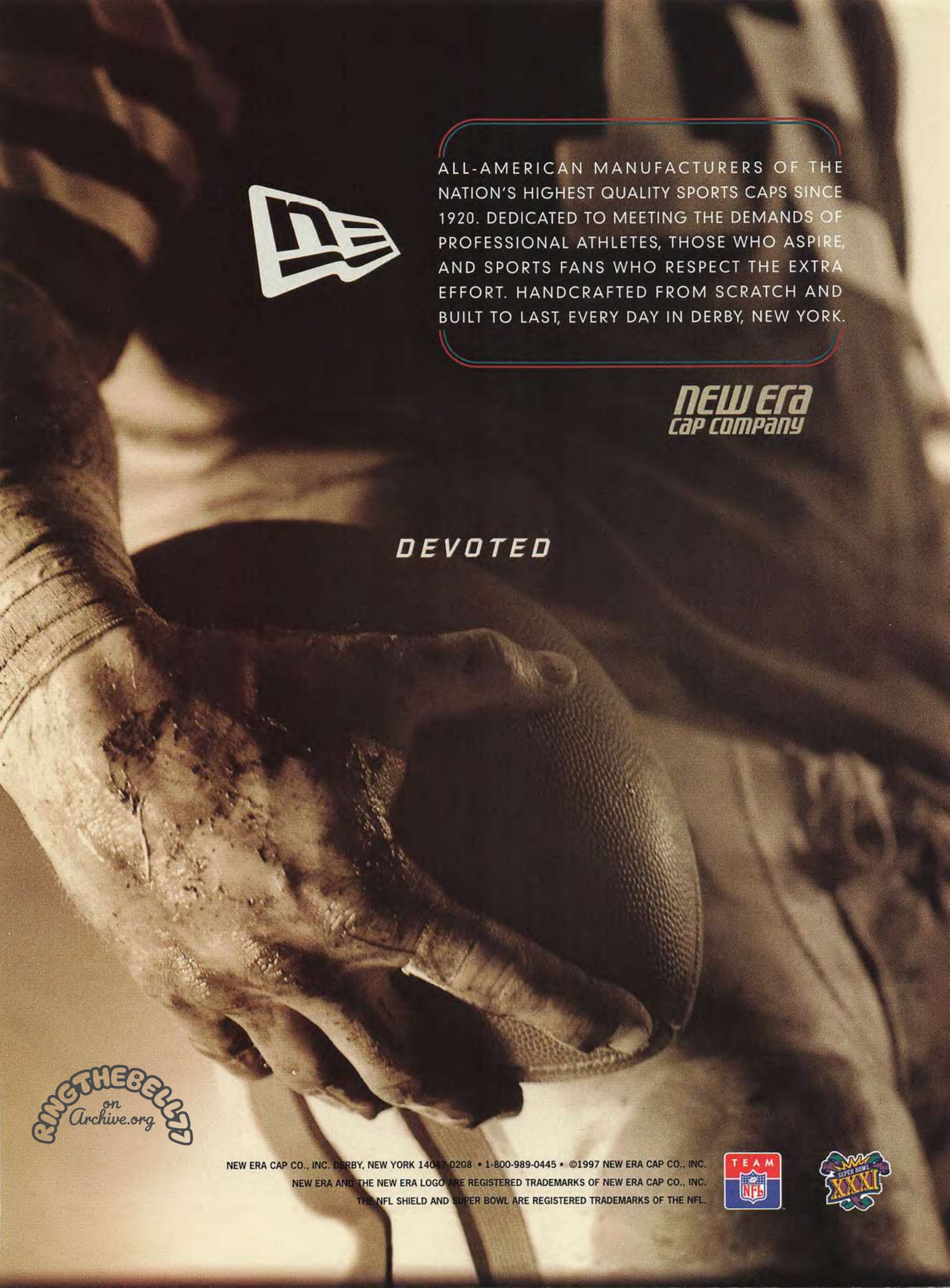
Bradshaw's extracurricular pursuits lean to the rural. He was a town kid, but his happiest times were the weekends spent on the 40-acre farm of his "Mamaw and Papaw."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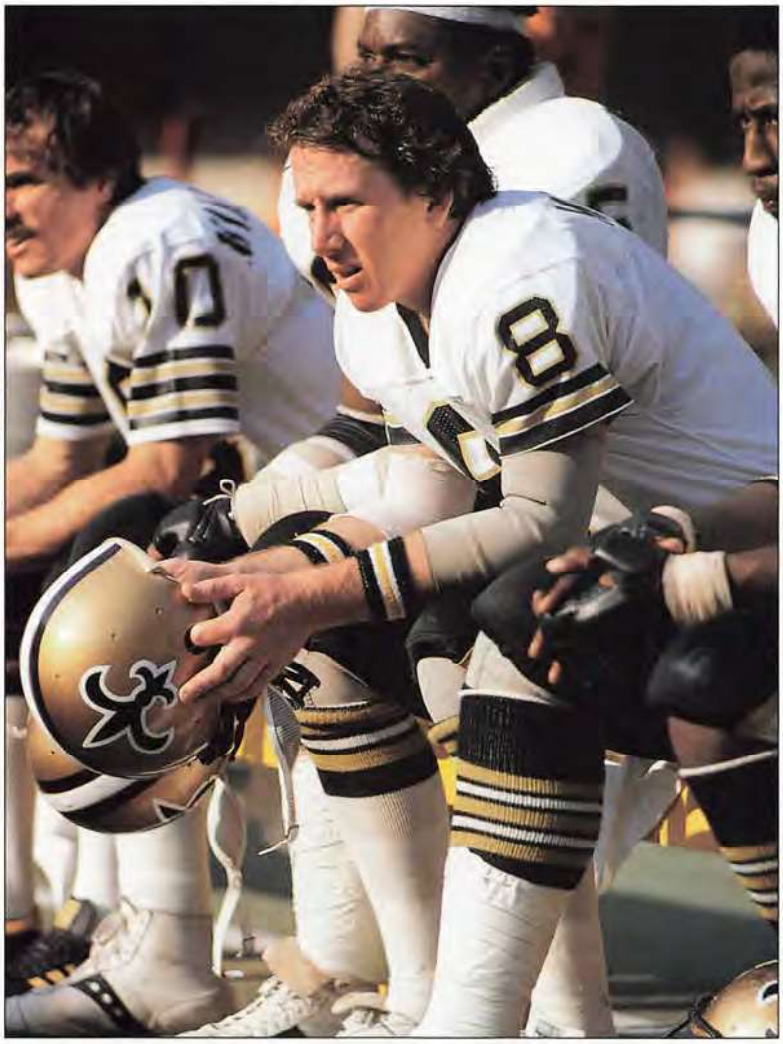
Continued from page 115

just not the case. I can't do it for him. And he's fine with that."

Archie has been a reluctant football mentor to his kids. He and Peyton talk regularly and often, but less and less about the sport. When advice is solicited, it more often has to do with the management of image and people: what to expect in an interview, how to handle a particular question, how to placate possessive alumni. Sometimes they talk immediately after a game, before Peyton heads for the interview room. That is when Archie reminds his son to stick to the script: "This was a big win, but now we have to start focusing on South Carolina"—that sort of thing. Peyton may be precociously poised, but his 20-year-old's enthusiasm isn't far below the surface.

"Oh, yeah," he says with a chuckle, "the first thing you want to say sometimes is, 'We're the best team in country, and nobody's gonna beat us.'"



GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Once a Saint . . . *Even though his career with the Saints ended 15 years ago, Manning remains New Orleans's most lasting hero.*

Peyton is on course to be the number-one pick in the NFL draft. The question is: when? Whole chat rooms are devoted to hashing out whether he will leave Tennessee early this spring or stay for his senior season next fall.

Paul Buckley shakes his head to think of it. Buckley is the general manager of the New Orleans Hilton Hotel, and a close friend of Archie Manning. They can barely swing a golf club these days with all the folks crowding Archie for a hint, a clue.

"I told him," Buckley says. "When you die, and you're on your way to heaven—and I know you'll be in heaven—you're gonna be at the pearly gates, and St. Peter's gonna ask you: 'So, is Peyton coming out?'"

Well, is he? The Mannings insist that nobody, Peyton included, knows for sure at this point. One thing is certain, though: The decision will not be made by Archie. "Just like in the recruiting thing," he says, "I'm not sure I gave Peyton guidance, but I was there for support. I want it to be the same in pro ball. I'm gonna be there. I'm gonna be available."

Archie has taken on much of the legwork, meeting with an endless stream of agents, eliminating the creeps and hastening the introductions. It has added another dimension to what Greg Suit, the Saints' vice president of marketing, calls "the business of being Archie."

It is a business with little room for promotion, but it keeps a man busy, which is perfect for an infamously compulsive list-maker. There are the corporate clients—BellSouth Mobility, the Entergy Corporation, Community Health Network, Gatorade, Royal Automotive. There is the fund raising—the Archie Manning Cystic Fibrosis Golf Tournament (now three separate events), the Louisiana Special Olympics, the Boy Scouts, the Sal-

Continued on page 122

Peyton is on course to be the number-one pick in the NFL draft. The question is: when? Whole chat rooms are devoted to hashing out whether he will leave Tennessee early this spring.

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Continued from page 116

Yet he hasn't even been to the Circle 12 in a year. (His dad, Bill, takes care of it.) Being the center of the FOX universe, you see, is a mobile job. So Bradshaw makes his home in Westlake, Texas, about 30 miles north of the frequent-flyer hub of Dallas-Fort Worth.

There he leads a blissfully predictable domestic life with his wife of 10 years, Charla, and their daughters, Rachel Terry (9) and Erin (7).

"She's a little gal with a big heart," Terry says of Charla, possibly sowing the seeds of another country-Western hit.

She's also a lawyer who recently earned a master's degree in marriage and family counseling. In other words, she is a grounded-to-earth contrast to Bradshaw's two earlier wives: Melissa Babich, a former Miss Teenage America, and JoJo Starbuck, a professional figure skater and former Olympian. Both of those marriages ended not so much in bitterness as in sadness for the ever-hopeful Bradshaw. (Cops pulled him out of a Steelers' team meeting in August, 1980, to serve him with Starbuck's divorce papers.)

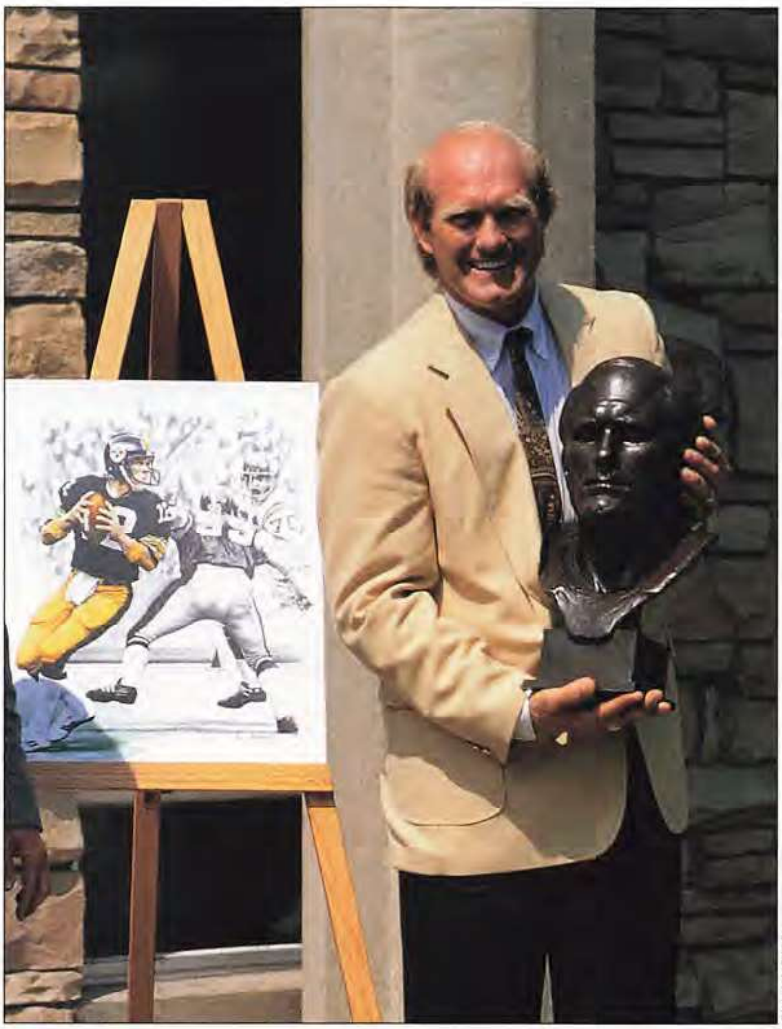
"I wasn't about to marry a starlet after that," Bradshaw says. "I needed someone with substance and stability."

He laughs. "I guess when you fall in love, substance and stability don't have anything to do with it, do they?"

Stability is something new for Bradshaw. This is a man who has lightened his journey—from college to the Steelers to CBS to FOX—by swiftly severing that which came before.

"I was always afraid that if I held on to my past, I could never close the book," Bradshaw admits. "That if I didn't move on, I would suffer for it. That I would not fulfill myself, or challenge myself. That my life would get boring."

So he steams ahead at full speed, but not without cost. Bradshaw doesn't keep contact with any of his old Steelers cohorts. He has returned to Three Rivers Stadium only once, for a radio promotion, and he did not attend the funeral of Art Rooney, a man he idolized. He lost touch with his best friend from childhood (and college wide receiver), Tommy Spinks, and even he and Lundquist aren't close.



BILL AMATUCCI

Football Immortal: *A career that started slowly ended with a flourish when Bradshaw was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.*

It starts to add up to a melancholy portrait. But, again, it's easy to read too deeply into Bradshaw. He is no Citizen Kane on the path to a bitter, solitary old age. Bradshaw isn't cursed with losing friends so much as blessed with making them all too readily at each new bend.

"Everybody gets busy in their life," he says. "And that really *is* life. I don't say this with great pride, that I buried Pittsburgh and moved on because I really haven't. I have all my memories, and if I saw Jack Ham and Joe Greene and all these guys, I'd light up like a Christmas tree. I've never forgotten them. I never *will* forget them."

In most cases, the feeling is mutual. Charles Edward Greene, the Arizona Cardinals' defensive line coach popularly celebrated as Mean Joe, seems to treat Bradshaw as a kid brother who ran away to Hollywood and got discovered. He admires him, follows his career—but at a distance.

"He's a special guy," Greene says. "He ran the gamut of emotions—in his private life, on the field...in and out of the lineup...the successes, the failures. He overcame all of that. He has a story to tell."

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Continued from page 118

vation Army, the nonprofit Nokia Sugar Bowl Committee. There are the speaking engagements, occasionally for a corporation but more likely for a school or an anti-drug group.

"Sometimes it's like running an obstacle course," says Mark Romig, who helps set up the obstacles as public relations director for the firm that books Manning's appearances.

The schedule gets accordioned in the fall, when each weekend brings what Archie calls his "weekly hat trick:" Eli's prep game on Friday night, Peyton's action on Saturday (home or away), and the Saints on Sunday. Manning provides color commentary for radio station WWL.

Archie's omnipresence has created, or feeds off, a remarkable situation in New Orleans. The man who never played in an NFL playoff game, never even directed his pro team to a winning record, is treated by the city's residents as if he had won four Super Bowls.

"He is arguably as popular today as any of our current players," Suit says in amazement.

"He has been given his just due, as if he'd served combat duty," Buckley says. "Archie has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for football."

If he has, the explanation rests in the unique qualities of Archie Manning and the city he has made his home. "New Orleans is the world's biggest small town," says Jim Henderson, Manning's partner in the WWL booth.

New Orleans also is a city that too often hears the words, "It's a great place to visit, but..."

So, when an athlete not only moves in, but stays there, raises a God-fearing family there, the act does not go unnoticed. And Manning's commitment to the city is legendary. In 1978, he won the Byron (Whizzer) White Humanitarian Award "for service to team, community, and country," and his activism has multiplied since then. Every charity in the city has him on speed dial.

Certainly, Manning has learned the selling power of a good reputation. But the people who know him best insist he does not have to try very hard to maintain it. Archie, they say, is the same straightforward, bighearted person who came to the Saints drawling "Yes, sir," "No, ma'am," and "I just want to work hard and help my team."

"You can talk to businessmen, bankers, university professors, and parish priests," Buckley says, "and they'll tell you the same thing: There's some kind of aura around the guy."

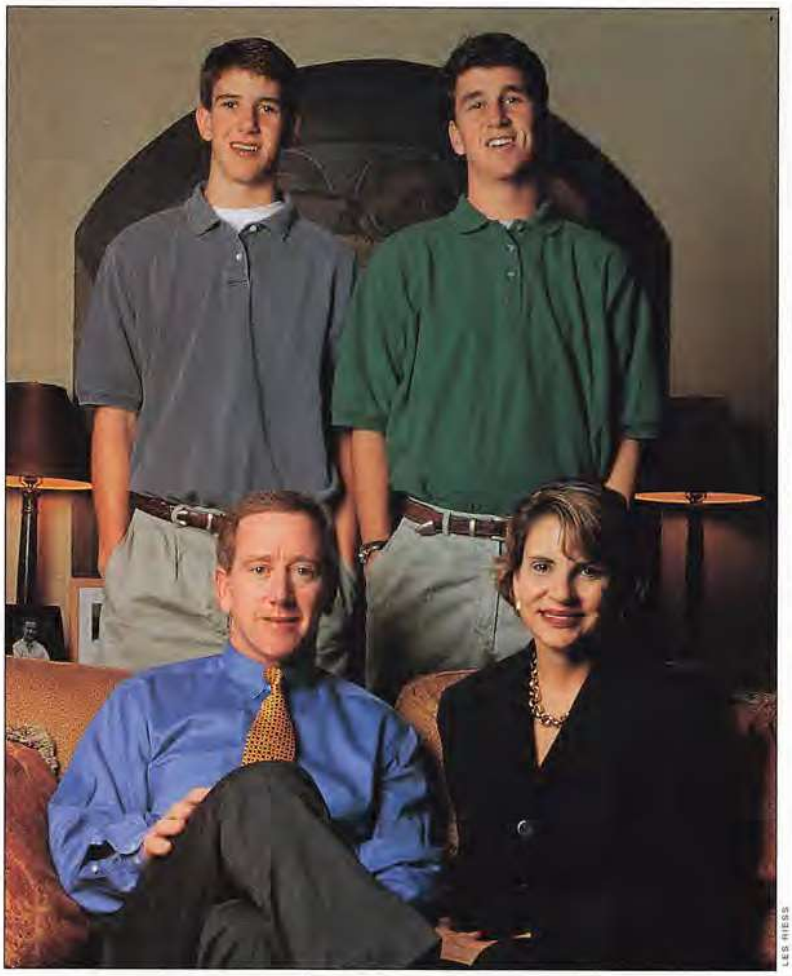
"You know, the wind blows north, the wind blows south, but he's solid," says Danny Abramowicz, the Bears' special-teams coach and, years ago, Manning's favorite wide receiver. "He's genuine."

Clearly, the business of being Archie is on solid footing these days. It is enough to make a middle-aged athlete shrug and look embarrassed.

"Being the quarterback of the only game in town is a unique position," Manning says. "I was that quarterback for twelve years, longer than anyone else. But somebody will come along and be here for fifteen, and they will forget me."

That seems unlikely, but Archie has a point. Fame is a high-maintenance project, and the supply is limited. Even Peyton Manning, a young man at the crest of the sports world, has his pursuers. Last autumn, for example, a sophomore quarterback led Isidore Newman High School, Peyton's alma mater, to an 8-2 mark and a playoff spot. He led the city of New Orleans in passing, too, with numbers beyond what Peyton had posted at the same stage.

The kid passer was Eli Manning. In five or six years, "Eli" just might be a very popular first name. ⚜



LES RIESS

The Mannings of New Orleans: *Sons Eli (left) and Cooper join Archie and Olivia at home. (Son Peyton not pictured.)*

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THREE DECADES OF MARCHING IN

Laissez les bons temps rouler. Or for those less familiar with the pervasive French influence in New Orleans, "Let the Good Times Roll."

It is a motto that Louisiana natives live by and one that amply describes the 30-year history of the New Orleans Saints. From John Gilliam's 94-yard kickoff return for a touchdown on the franchise's first regular-season play to Tom Dempsey's NFL-record 63-yard field goal to the club's first division title in 1991, Saints football has provided a Mardi Gras-like atmosphere in America's Crescent City.

"The Saints are part of the fabric of New Orleans," says Bill Curl, director of public relations and sports marketing for Spectacor Management Group that manages the Superdome. "New Orleans loves a great party. Saints games are not just football games, they are a celebration."

It was obvious from the beginning that the Saints would be a unique football team. New Orleans was awarded an NFL franchise on November 1, 1966—All Saints' Day.

The club's first owner was John Mecom, Jr., a 27-year-old oil baron. Pro Football Hall of Fame receiver Tom Fears was the club's first head coach. On the Saints' first day of training camp in San Diego in 1967, eagerness overwhelmed thoroughness—the equipment men forgot to bring footballs.

"Saints football in the early days wasn't just football," says Bob Roesler, who covered the Saints for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* from the team's inaugural season until 1994. "It was a happening. When things were going bad for the team on the field, it wasn't exactly 'Heartbreak Hotel' for the fans.

"Saints games were like a giant amusement park. You might call it the playpen for the not so rich and famous. Priests and ministers started altering their church schedules so they could get churchgoers out early enough to make kickoff."

A cast of colorful characters, many near the end of their careers, filled the team's early rosters. Players such as running back Jim Taylor, defensive tackle Doug Atkins, and quarterback Billy Kilmer fit in perfectly with the lifestyle of New Orleans. Tackle Ray Rissmiller, a.k.a. the Singing Saint, performed in night clubs on Bourbon Street.

"The guys in the early days loved to party," says *Times-Picayune* columnist Peter Finney, who has reported on the Saints since their inception. "They loved the city. They lived it up. They had a good time."

"Everyone was afraid that Bourbon Street was going to be too much of a magnet for the players, and it usually was," Roesler says.

Linebacker Steve Stonebreaker, who freely gave his time and energy to the New Orleans community, was one of the most popular of the early Saints. A group of local businessmen once rewarded Stonebreaker for his charitable contributions by attempting to pay a fine he had received for fighting in a game against the Giants.

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle would not accept the money, so Stonebreaker had to pay the fine with his own money. The businessmen took back the money they had raised and bought Stonebreaker a new wardrobe.

The Archie Manning era began when the Saints made the rifle-armed quarterback from Mississippi their first selection in the 1971 NFL draft (see page 98). The public quickly adopted Manning as a native son.

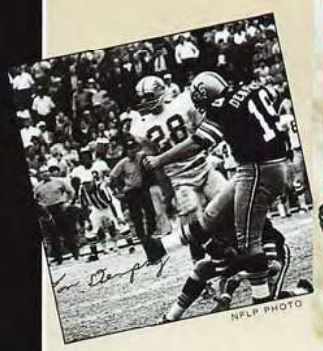
"Archie was special because he was a Southern boy," Roesler says. "When the Saints got him it was hailed as the super draft. Archie was fun to watch, his scrambling and passing. He now is one of the city's most loved personalities."

One thing Manning could not give New Orleans was a winner. During Manning's tenure in New Orleans (1971-1982) the Saints posted a record of 45-114-3.

When Tom Benson bought the Saints from Mecom in 1985, fortunes began to change. In 1986, Benson hired Jim Finks as president and general manager, and Finks hired Jim Mora as head coach.

Led by a stifling defense that featured four Pro Bowl linebackers (Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills, Vaughan Johnson, and Pat Swilling), New Orleans won 69 games and made four playoff appearances from 1986-1992.

Patient Saints fans, denied a postseason berth for the franchise's first 20 years, have stood faithfully by their team. They are some of the most interesting fans in the NFL.



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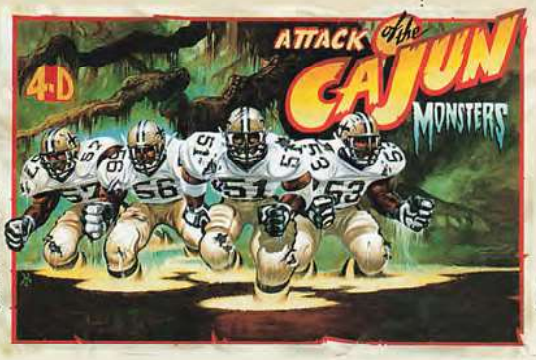


DAVID MCMACKEN

MALCOLM EMMONS

Saints standouts: *(L to R) Tom Dempsey set an NFL record with his 63-yard field goal. Saints' linebackers were key reason for team's success in late 1980s. Gilliam's kickoff return for a touchdown gave franchise a flying start.*

Benson: *Owner Tom Benson built a successful franchise and embraced the fans' zeal.*

Saints fans have hosted lavish tailgate parties, worn bags over their heads, adopted catchy phrases such as "Cha-Ching" and "Who Dat," and toted parasols. The team mascot at games is a Saint Bernard named Gumbo.

The Soulful Saints, Charlie's Saints, Vernon's Die Hards, and the Who Dats are a few of the local fan clubs. The New Orleans Saints Booster Club boasts 1,500 members.

"I remember fondly how much the people of New Orleans supported us," Fears says. "They were excellent fans, very loyal. They would cheer for us even when we didn't have good teams. I had been at other places where if you didn't win, you were just dirt. It sure wasn't that way in New Orleans."

"You have to understand the spirit of the bag heads," Curl says. "It was not done as a mean or malicious act. It was done in jest. The decorated bags were considered just another Halloween or Mardi Gras costume. It was a humorous approach to a bad season."

The Saints' management embraced the flamboyance of the fans. Mecom, who wanted to put on a good show, hired renowned event producer Tommy Walker to create halftime extravaganzas.

One of the halftimes featured races between ostriches named after members of the media. Walker's halftime show at Super Bowl IV included a re-creation of the Battle of New Orleans.

Legendary New Orleans jazz musician Al Hirt, who also was a minority owner of the Saints in the early years, regularly performed on the sidelines at Saints home games.

During one game, Hirt saw an opposing running back break through a hole and race down the field. Hirt grabbed his microphone, and screamed "Get that ##$@!" Rozelle later sent word that Hirt was not to use his microphone to yell at the players.

Hirt played a key role in helping New Orleans get its first Super Bowl. The New Orleans Super Bowl committee asked the trumpeter to perform at a party after they made their presentation to club owners at a meeting in Palm Springs. Not only did Hirt entertain, but afterwards he told the owners in his trademark raspy voice, "If you come to New Orleans, for the halftime, you got all of me for free." The league took him up on his offer, and he played during the halftime show at Super Bowl IV.

Current Saints owner Benson made his mark with the "Benson Boogie," a celebration dance he performed with cheerleaders and the team band after the Saints clinched their first postseason berth in 1987.

"People stayed after the game just to watch Tom Benson go down onto the field and be with the band and other fans," Roesler says. "I remember talking with other owners who hinted that wasn't a proper way for an owner to act.

"But the television would show him, and the writers would write about him. More owners started telling me that they wished they could get away with what Tom did in sharing the fun with the fans."

Getting an NFL franchise spurred New Orleans voters to pass a measure that paved the way for the building of the Superdome.

The Saints, who spent their first eight seasons in Tulane Stadium, moved indoors in 1975 into one of the nation's finest sports facilities.

"The Saints spawned the Superdome, and the Superdome kept the city alive when the oil crunch hit," Roesler says. "When everything was going bad with the economy, Saints football kept our spirits up. I think the Saints and the Superdome saved downtown New Orleans.

"I remember what the city used to be like before the Superdome—railroad sheds and other dilapidated buildings. The Saints have more than deserved the adoration they've received from the fans."

According to a 1993 survey by Tim Ryan, dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of New Orleans, the Saints currently have an annual economic impact of more than $150 million on New Orleans. Ryan's study also found that hosting a Super Bowl meant more than $200 million to the local economy.

"Nearly thirty years ago, I remember talking to Buddy Young, an African-American and former All-America at Illinois who worked for Pete Rozelle," Roesler says. "Buddy told me at the time, 'If I was asked how to integrate Louisiana and Alabama peacefully and cheerfully, I'd put an NFL franchise in those states just like the one that is in New Orleans. If Birmingham, Alabama, had an NFL franchise, I think the races would get along better.'

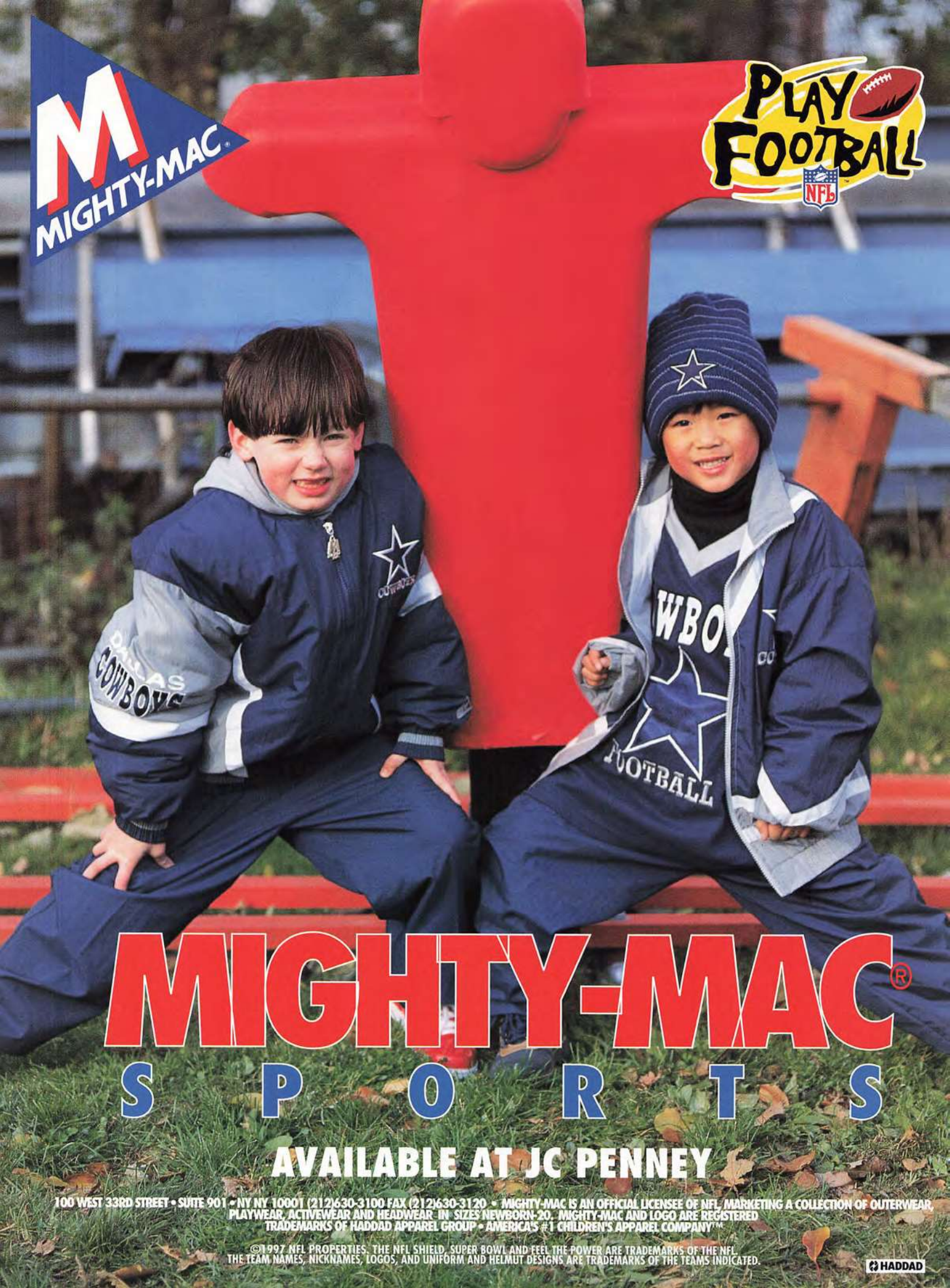
"Buddy was right. I think that's another thing the Saints have done for New Orleans. Race relations have been much better since the NFL arrived."

"The Saints brought a lot of people together in New Orleans, especially corporations," says Jack Faulkner, the St. Louis Rams pro personnel director who was an assistant coach and administrator with the Saints from 1967-1970. "Everyone got involved with the team.

"The Saints gave everyone something in common. All of a sudden people from all walks of life found themselves sitting next to each other at the stadium, and they started learning more about each other."

Thirty years later, New Orleans' love affair with the Saints remains alive and well.

Brian Peterson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Discovering Football... and Innocence

A transplant to America learned some lessons from its games

It was the final minute of my first football game. The score was tied and the Saints were trying a 50-yard field-goal attempt. When Morten Andersen stepped in, the crowd became full of something I can only describe as religious fervor. Andersen's foot was being charged by the mystical wish of the crowd, like some sort of icon. I was reminded of the way villagers in parts of Mexico look up to religious statues, pinning all their wishes for good health and success to the worn plaster. Only this was no ancient statue; this was the living foot of a fairly young person, and we were looking down at it. And then it happened: Morten made the kick and the Saints won. The crowd went wild, and I learned, as I would in repeated performances over the years, that Morten Andersen's foot *was* the icon. What's more, it was well worth worshipping because little else about that particular Saints team was.

It was my son, Lucian, who introduced me to the religion of football. Before moving to New Orleans, we lived in Baltimore during the dark ages—after the Colts left and before the Ravens arrived. Talk of football rang hollow in that city back then. A few weeks after the Colts' departure, I saw a throng of men outside Johnny Unitas's Golden Arm restaurant, looking as if they were in mourning.

Sports fans in Baltimore threw themselves passionately into baseball, the city's other major pastime. My son, who played Little League baseball, made it a point to discuss with me all the finer points of the game and the various personality traits of each Orioles player. He explained this to me very slowly, the way you would explain nuclear physics to an ape. The reason for his concern was simple: I was handicapped. I was born in Romania, a country without baseball, football, Little League, or trading cards. I had had the unspeakably bad fortune of spending an entire childhood without any of these things.

Don't get me wrong. We had sports. There was soccer, above all. Soccer was a national pastime of major proportions. At the time, Romania was a communist country. There was little besides sports that anyone could discuss openly and publicly. You couldn't argue about politics or history or even geography. All those areas were subject to the communist party line. Only soccer escaped the careful monitoring of the commissars. Our newspapers were full of lies on every page except the last—the sports page.

There was something else, too: I was a reader. In the kind of world I grew up in, guys with glasses and guys with muscles didn't mix. I remember coming home, with books under my arm, one evening after the soccer game. An angry crowd was heading my way. The people were angry because the home team had lost. Much beer had been drunk. But they didn't sound appeased. They needed a substantial sacrifice, something with glasses. I managed to get behind one of the huge medieval doors on a side street, and cowered there until they passed.

I have thought about this often, and every time I have thought about it, I thanked my lucky stars that my children grew up in America. Both my boys have an appetite for sports. They played baseball and football, and they took karate. And both of them also like to read. Their sports activities did not reflect one way or another on their intellectual pursuits. Or vice-versa. There is little or no prejudice in this country against developing both body and mind.

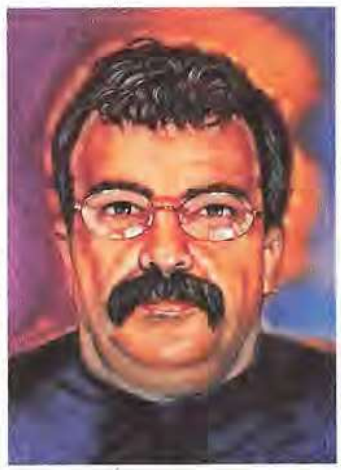


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HANLEY

I saw my first baseball game in Baltimore, and my first football game in New Orleans. Five years stretched between these two events. I consider my first baseball game my true induction to American citizenship. In fact, I received citizenship just around the time I saw that game. My son explained the game to me and taught me how to watch it. I kept following the ball at all times and had no idea why there was so much time between one pitch and the next. I had no idea why all those people were just standing around on the field. There was so much time between batted balls, I spent a lot of time daydreaming. I could have a read a book, too, if it had not

been for my vestigial fear of crowds. It was a perfect blue-sky summer day. Baseball was dreamy and good-natured and I took that as a perfect symbol for American tolerance.

Five years later, I took it pretty much for granted that I was becoming more American all the time. America was tolerant, it was true, but it was also aggressive, goal-oriented, fiercely competitive, and ritualistic. Some of these qualities impinged on tolerance. As I looked around me, I saw also that the America of the nineties was not as good-natured as America of the seventies. In the seventies, you could daydream and read books and hope that inflation wouldn't totally eat your earnings. In the nineties, a whole host of worries had descended upon us. There was a new world economy with lots of insecurity. Immigrants were suddenly looked upon as enemies of hard-working Americans, instead of hard-working Americans-to-be. America, a country of hard-working immigrants, was becoming a country of walls and borders, of fear and suspicion.

Football had lots to teach me about surviving in the tougher new world around me. From the first, it was clear that daydreaming was out. The action was fast, rough, and relentless. Each yard was fought for with brutish strength. The strategic considerations were complex and had been thought about in advance, though they took only seconds to execute.

I found all that quite apt, both for the times and for myself. This was the era of corporate buyouts, when big fish ate little fish, when unabashed partisans of raw capitalism fought to conquer more and more territory. Many of these new breed of aggressive entrepreneurs took for their symbols predators such as "eagles." Some of them were corporate "raiders." I was quite taken by this analogy, but when I told it to my oldest son, he laughed at me. "How about the Dolphins?" he said. "How about the Cardinals? There is nothing aggressive about them."

In the mid-eighties, the Saints were coming out of a series of bad years, and there was an atmosphere of cautious hope in New Orleans. I don't know about other cities, but in New Orleans, the Saints are regarded with all the superstitious passion befitting their name. The team song is "When the Saints Come Marching In." People have been known to pray to such local saints as St. Expedite for their favorite team. This St. Expedite is supposed to hurry things up when they are too slow to believe. Well, patience wore thin quite a few times with the home team.

In New Orleans, the city of Mardi Gras, where people express themselves through masks and costumes, feelings didn't take long to dress up. At games, people clad in the most egregious colors prayed loudly for touchdowns. There were tortured clowns, suffering martyrs, even penitents with whips and crosses. At one point years earlier, the long-suffering folk took to wearing paper bags over their heads with the motto WHO DAT? This is the local way of saying, "Who is that? Who are you?" One might recognize in such a cry the exasperation of a parent when a child just can't seem to bring home that passing grade.

It was my luck to be there for a Saints victory. My son, who had studied the chances for this game with the dedication of a scientist, was convinced that victory was ours. People around us were less certain. A large woman in gold and black, waxed philosophical between bites of a Lucky Dog with everything on it. "God willin', this might be the day!" she said. So when Morten Andersen's miraculous foot made everyone's hopes come true, there was more than satisfaction. There was jubilation.

So when Morten Andersen's miraculous foot made everyone's hopes come true, there was more than satisfaction. There was jubilation.

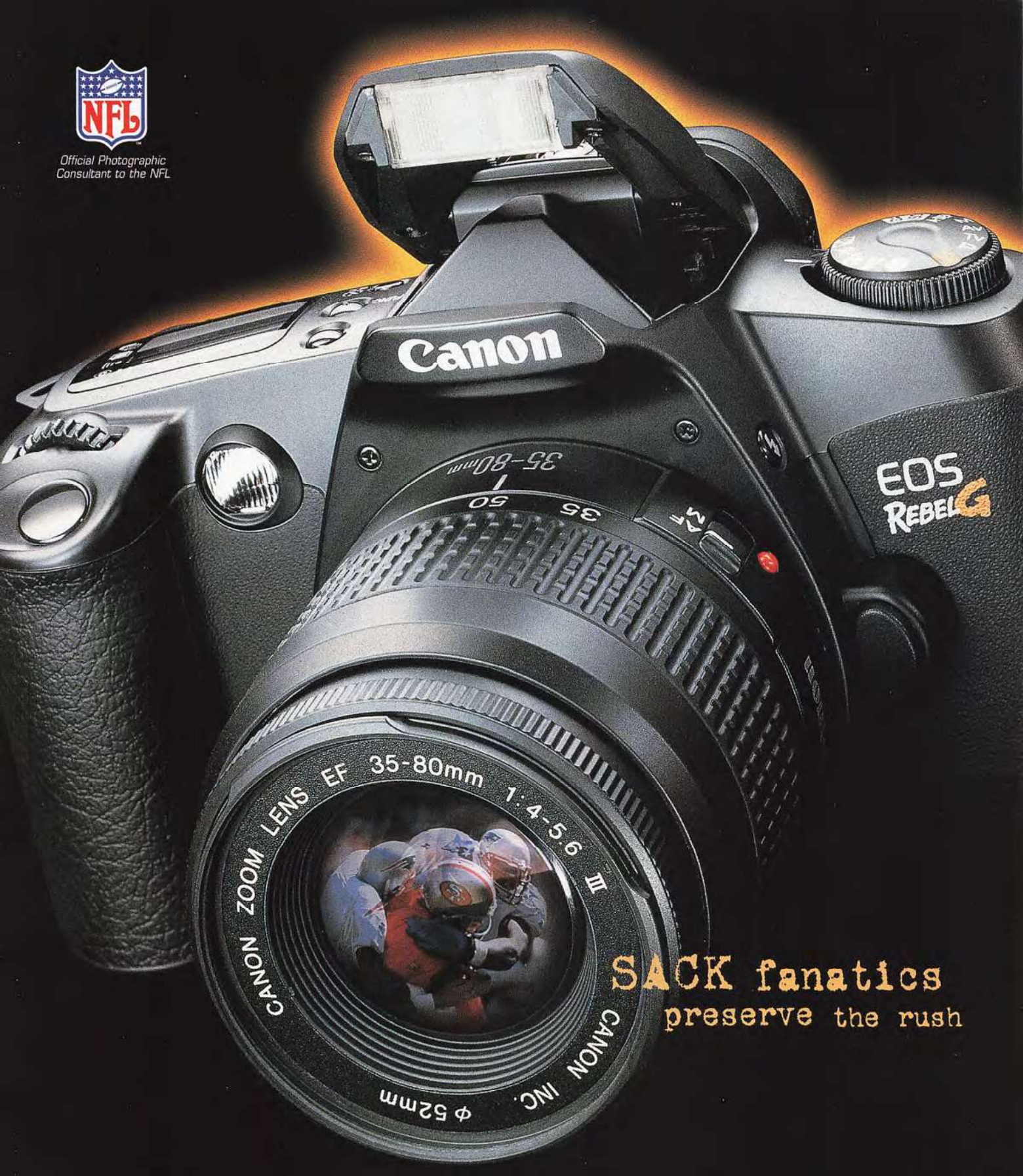
I was hooked, to my distress. Every Sunday for the next year I turned into Homo Americanus, or the Couch Potato with the long-neck in one hand. My sons were, at first, my patient pals and teachers, even when I showed a complete lack of education concerning things such as "safeties" or "touchbacks."

To tell the truth, I felt quite inadequate. At one point, my youngest son, quite exasperated by the failing performances of the Saints, decided that I was the reason for their misfortune. "Dad," he said, "you've got to leave. Every time you're watching, there is an interception!" I was furious and about to bring down the full force of my patriarchal authority, but then I thought about it. Every time I left the room to get another beer, the team came back. As soon as I re-entered and started watching again, something horrible happened to them. Maybe my son *was* right.

My son is quite grown now, and I hope that he doesn't still think that I ruined it for the near-miss Saints of the early nineties. But maybe I did.

The trouble with getting older is that you begin to see the pattern. You know instinctively, when the season starts a certain way, how it's going to turn out. Still, you try to ignore that instinct because you're hoping for that surprise and pleasure you remember from your first game, when you were innocent.

I have been to quite a few football games since that first one, but with my sons gone on to their own lives, I don't get as much pleasure now. Still, the day the Saints win the Super Bowl, I'll rejoice without a thought. That day, my innocence will return. ⚜



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Music, Man: *The moody music of a soulful trumpeter fills the night in a New Orleans night club.*

Play's the Thing

IN NEW ORLEANS, THE BEAT NEVER STOPS

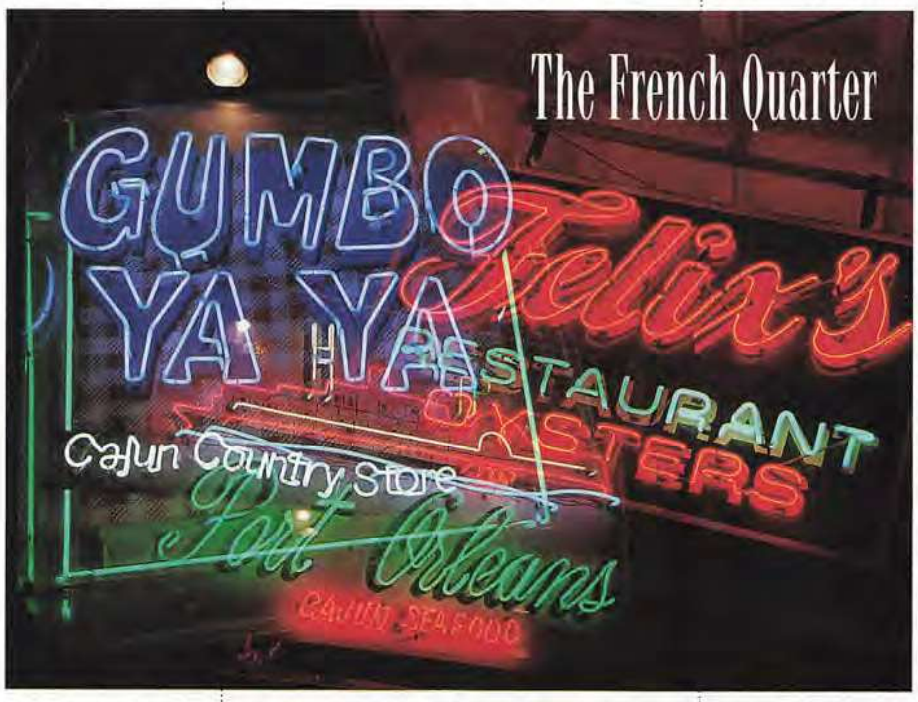
BOURBON STREET, SYMBOL OF NEW ORLEANS, CONJURS UP SO MANY IMAGES...FOR SATIN AND SLEAZE, MUSIC HOT AND SWINGING, OYSTERS CHILLED AND SALTY.

BOURBON STREET, CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND EVER CHANGELESS, IS LIKE SO MANY OTHER GREAT AMERICAN CITY SCENES—MICHIGAN AVENUE IN CHICAGO, TIMES SQUARE IN NEW YORK, FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN SAN FRANCISCO. THEY SURVIVE TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE PHRASE: "THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME."

Text By Joe Pollack • Photography by Les Riess

Those who stroll along the New Orleans landmark today will find many of the same sights, sounds, and aromas they would have experienced in January, 1970, when the Kansas City Chiefs and Minnesota Vikings arrived in town to play what was formally the "Fourth World Championship Game," but which was the first to use the phrase "Super Bowl" on its tickets.

Galatoire's remains the queen of Bourbon Street dining, lines of patrons still stretching down the street during dinner hour, and the Old Absinthe House still is the Court Jester, though through the years the grand collection of underwear that hung from the chandeliers has been replaced by battered football helmets representing football heroes such as Ole Miss's Charlie Conerly, the original Marlboro Man. Time was, during Super Bowl festivities, when the crowd was packed so thickly around the bar that a friend, circled tightly by buddies, could go unnoticed while he removed his jockey shorts and calmly re-dress before tossing his undergarment over an arm of the chandelier on the first try.



Bourbon Street may be the best-known street of the French Quarter, but the street is not the Quarter, no more than the Quarter is New Orleans. Bourbon Street sizzles, but a block away, toward the Mississippi River, Royal Street epitomizes cool, with curio shops, boutiques, and book stores whose wares speak loudly, but always politely, of style and class and old, genteel money.

One does not stroll on Bourbon Street; one walks it much as if it were an ocean beach, struggling against a tide of people, now pushing, now pulling, now easing from side to side. It is a joyous battle, and sometimes a heart-rending one. Seeing a restaurant door open and a pair of young people stride out, flushed with dinner and wine and each other, makes a passer-by smile.

Food and music are not Bourbon Street's only products; T-shirts, almost all emblazoned with the name of the street and often boasting a wide variety of rude remarks, are in sufficient supply to outfit an army. Sex sells, too, as in most other cities the world over. There is a lot more sex in the advertising photos than on the stage, and when the "girls" come to the door between shows to seek extra customers, they look a lot better when they remain mostly in the shadows. Everyone has a story to tell, a song to sing, a con to sell.

New Orleans is one of the true all-night cities in America; there are no mandatory closing hours for bars, and action can run until dawn, or even after. As long as there are cooks, bartenders, waiters, and musicians to carry out their appointed tasks, the show goes on.

One of the most important tasks is that of oyster shucker because there are those who think there is no good reason to go to New Orleans except to enjoy a couple of dozen on the half shell, and someone has to open them. The bivalve resists, and its shell has rough corners and slick spots on which a knife can slip. That's why oyster shuckers wear heavy, almost armored gloves, covered with rubber, and why old-timers at the trade often are short a finger joint or two. Felix's and the Acme, across the street from one another on Iberville Street, just off Bourbon Street, are long-time spots at which oyster quality sets the standard for the city. New Orleanians usually are fiercely loyal to one or the other, and while I prefer Felix's, I've enjoyed my share of fine oysters at the Acme, too.

Both offer other seafood as well, but there is a coming-home feeling in walking into Felix's, striding to the bar, and asking for oysters. The shucker may ask how many, or he may just start shucking, assuming you will cry "uncle" before he will. He provides a paper cup into which you can mix a sauce, beginning with a ketchup-like base and adding horseradish, lemon, Tabasco, and other fiery liquids. The oysters are on ice, their shells rugged and ridged, but as the shucker opens them, and they shimmer in the overhead lights, they are beautiful, damp, and pearly gray as a new Homburg, still smelling of brine from the ocean depths.

There are few things better than the salty, sharp tang of a freshly opened, well-chilled oyster, with a squirt of lemon and just a drop or two of Tabasco. A dozen, or even two, and a long-neck beer are the perfect beginning to a New Orleans evening, and a couple of dozen on the half shell never spoiled anyone's appetite.

Galatoire's often seems to live in the nineteenth century, and it is beginning to lurch into the twentieth as we close in on the twenty-first. Only within the last decade did it begin to accept credit cards, and more recently than that did it welcome men without ties. Even today,

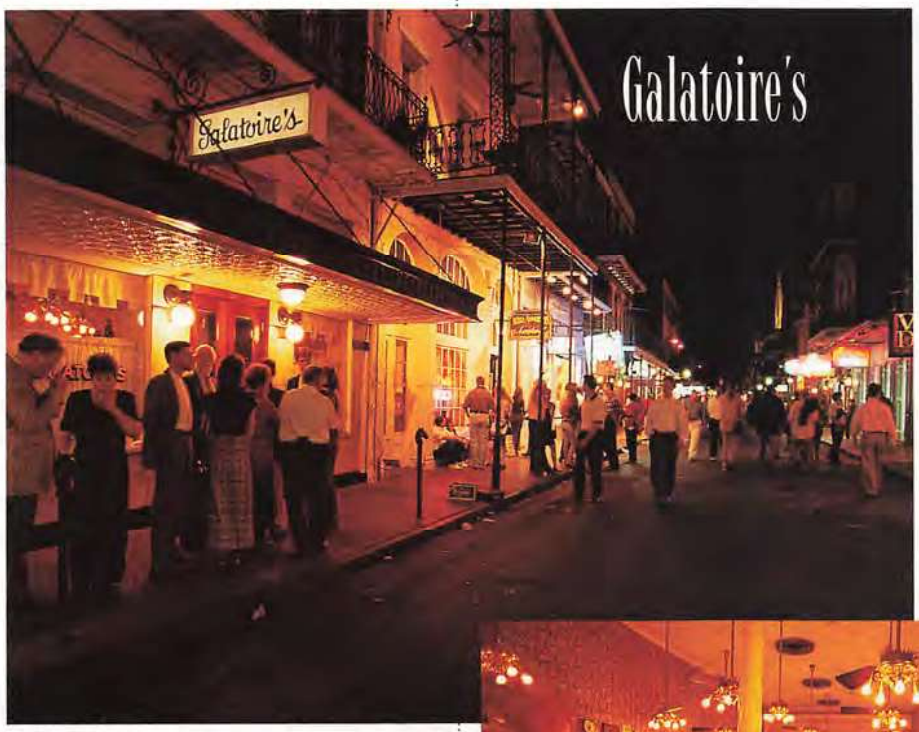
a request regarding dress code is met with the grave reply, "We encourage the wearing of ties for men."

Galatoire's does not seem to know, or care about, the delights of wine with dinner. The list is small and unimpressive, and does not include such vital information as vintage years for the bottles. However, given the restaurant's offerings, the vintage might not matter much. Decor is as it ever was—white tiles on walls and floor, picking up the clicks of heels and magnifying them. The many mirrors that line the walls magnify the light from the chandeliers, illuminating the area like a formal banquet room. The menu is simple, without explanation of any dish, though the waiters can explain anything with great skill and understanding. There is no waiting space, so diners come prepared for the quaint prospect of lining up on the street, where people-watching serves as an accepted form of predinner entertainment.

Like many of the classic New Orleans restaurants—Commander's Palace, Antoine's, Brennan's, and Arnaud's, among others—food is what is important, the featured dishes deeply imbued with the so-called New Orleans culinary trinity of garlic, bell pepper, and green onions, often called "shallots." No drizzled decorations or gourmet-style dust on the plates, no engineering techniques to position entrees vertically rather than horizontally.

Fish is broiled, or grilled—sometimes in a rich sauce, sometimes simply. Vegetables are an afterthought.

Galatoire's oysters en brochette are a masterpiece, with the oysters in a light batter amid rolled slices of delicious, smoky bacon for a special contrast.



New Orleans always is celebrating something, be it Super Bowl or Mardi gras, a major convention or a minor meeting. Inevitably, the celebrants wind up in the French Quarter, on Bourbon Street. Music of every style blares from storefronts and strip joints, and walking into the Cajun Cabin brings a blast of zydeco like a wave of summer heat. With accordion, banjo, and drums rolling out bayou rhythms, and dancers whirling and twirling like double-jointed dervishes, the urge to join is almost irresistible.

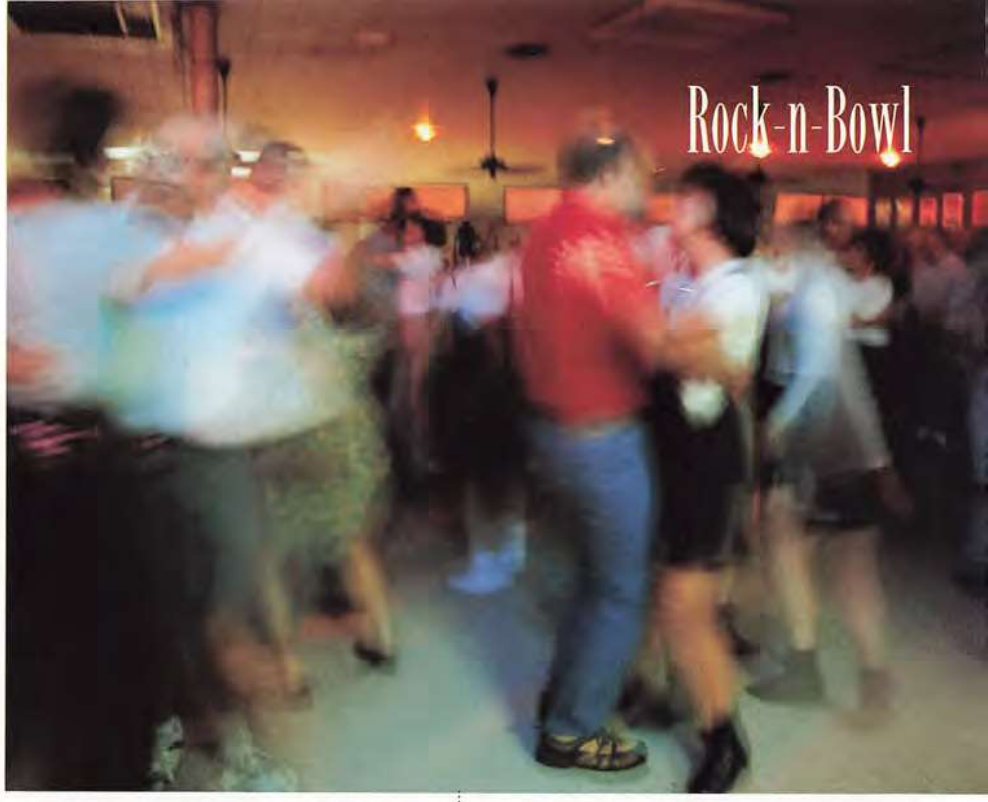
Farther down river is Snug Harbor, a music haven that has become a home of sorts for the Marsalis family. Father Ellis plays piano with his trio at times, and trombonist Delfeayo also is on the schedule.

The Marsalis family is an exception. Most New Orleans musicians are hyperactive sorts, bouncing here and there around town, often playing a different club each night.

Music is everywhere in New Orleans, from below the Quarter to Uptown to the Garden District to the shores of Lake Pontchartrain to excursion boats that cruise the Mississippi River. It comes in every style, and it is played in settings that are as slick as tomorrow's electronics and as funky as the backwoods shacks and honky-tonk bars where it was born.

A singular attraction and a popular one is the Mid-City Lanes, also known as Rock-n-Bowl. The bowling alley is one of the old-fashioned upstairs spaces, with 18 alleys and a

Rock-n-Bowl



Saturday night look of open bowling everywhere. There is a bar, and a menu that includes everything from egg rolls to poor boy sandwiches. A dingy, aging poster advertises an appearance—on August 9, 1956—by Elvis Presley at Pontchartrain Beach, and a pair of rental bowling shoes are nailed to the wall above the stairs, with a hand-lettered sign that explains they were worn by Tom Cruise.

Two or three nights a week, Mid-City is home to zydeco music, sometimes with country overtones and including nationally known names like Rockin' Dopsie, Boozoo Chavis, and Beau Jocque and the Zydeco Hi-Rollers.

The arrangement is simple: The bowling stops at about 10 o'clock, the lights come up, the band sets up at one end of the room—and the sounds of falling pins are replaced by zydeco, country, or rock 'n' roll. The Saturday night date crowd exchanges bowling shoes for dancing shoes, and the dancers, closer than tenpins, take over. Bowling does not die, however; about a half hour later, when the band is properly warmed up, the pin-setting machines return to action, and another set of bowlers begins.

I never had been dancing in a bowling alley before, but I could tell it was New Orleans when, closing in on 2 A.M., I wandered down the stairs and was told by a blonde, just entering the building in a long dress and freshly coiffed hair, that I was going to miss all the fun.

The mood is more uptown at the House of Blues, a recent addition to the French Quarter and an extension of a group that also operates in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Partly owned by Dan Aykroyd, one of the original Blues Brothers, and by the John Belushi estate, the night club features blues music, in every conceivable style, along with some excellent food. Primitive art hangs on the walls, and the patio, with totems and mosaics everywhere, busily encourages the growth of Spanish moss. On Sunday, the mood shifts to a Gospel Brunch that includes one of the best buffets in the city, with no shortage of well-spiced items, including oysters, eggs Benedict, delicious biscuits, and all the imaginable trimmings.

One of the grand New Orleans traditions is breakfast at Brennan's, and the legendary restaurant family has brought it back from some soft years. The kitchen is back in top shape. A visit is an expensive—but distinctive—experience. Eggs Benedict are prepared in classic style under a tart, glorious Hollandaise. Coffee, turtle soup, and oyster soup are hot and strong, and bananas Foster are a sweet delight for dessert. The restaurant gained a national reputation with tourists, but Brennan's remains popular with natives, too, and large, happy, celebratory parties of a dozen or more are a weekend tradition.

The Brennan family operates five New Orleans restaurants. One of them, Commander's Palace in the Garden District, is among the city's best. Commander's, with many rooms, including a gorgeous patio, is known for its ability to serve outstanding food to 400 people at a time, a feat little short of miraculous. Mouths water at the stuffed flounder, the giant veal chop, and the homemade pâtés. A perfect finish is the second-to-none bread pudding.

Service is some of the smoothest in the nation, and the chefs are renowned. Ella Brennan helped mold superstar chefs Paul Prudhomme and Emeril Lagasse, then watched them gain additional fame in their own kitchens. Prudhomme's K-Paul's Kitchen is open again after major remodeling, and Lagasse owns and still cooks at Emeril's, my choice as the city's finest restaurant.

Lagasse, who was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, of Portuguese parents, was a kitchen prodigy. He started hanging around a bakery when he was 8, cooked in the United States and France, served as a sous-chef to the famed Wolfgang Puck in Los Angeles, then took over the kitchen at Commander's when he was 26. He opened Emeril's eight years later, in 1990.

A meal at Emeril's blends the chef's New England background with the spices of his adopted Louisiana and those of the Southwest. He uses lots of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, plus Mississippi quail, Maine scallops, Iowa blue cheese, Texas redfish, Hudson Valley foie gras, among other geographical dishes.

His food is delicately spiced, beautifully presented, and always surprising. The jolts of flavor are stunningly different and marvelously effective.

The wine list is as magical as the menu, and Emeril himself is often around, dark eyes flashing. He is a man who truly loves his work.

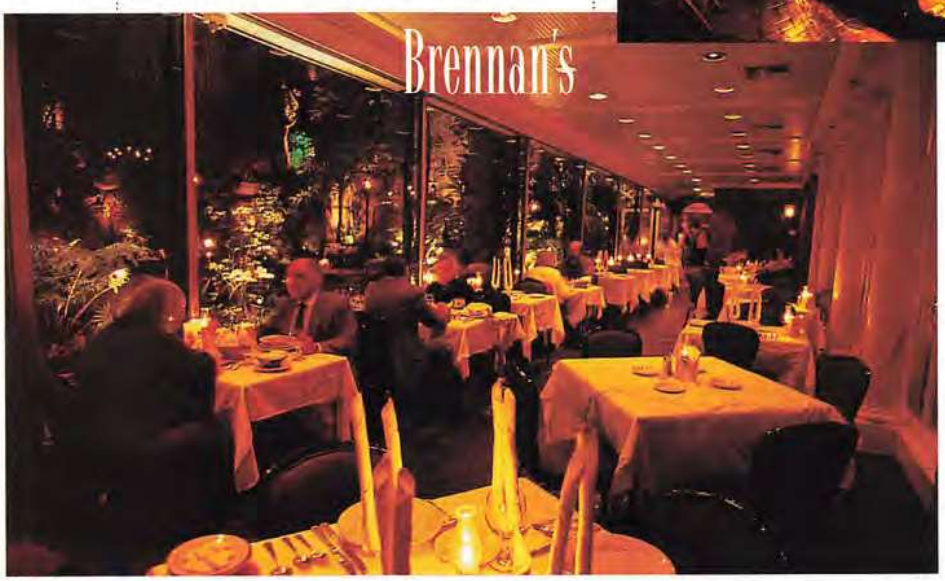
The restaurant, in the Warehouse District just east of the French Quarter, is a large, high-tech, high-ceiling room with a food bar at one corner where eight diners (reservations vital for this small viewing space, of course) can sit and watch the chef and his cooks create miracles in a minuscule space.

In a town in which eating is a major hobby among the residents, it does not require too much sleuthing to discover where the locals go. Among the favorites are informal, less touristy places such as the Camellia Grill, a diner with cloth napkins; Mother's, where huge breakfasts are wondrous; Uglesich's, a crowded, old-fashioned, seafood house in a less-than-perfect neighborhood. The night I was there, three upright, gray-haired dowagers at the next table wolfed down oysters and onion rings with great glee.

The Reuben sandwich at the Camellia is a gem, and Mother's offers special Louisiana touches such as eggs topped with "debris" (accent on the first syllable, please). Those are the trimmings from the roast beef (like the burnt ends at Arthur Bryant's, but less spicy). Uglesich's fries seafood so it is light as air, and it makes the ultimate soft-shell crab sandwich.

New Orleans feeds us with more than just oysters and gumbo. It provides every variety of music to feed the soul. Uptown's Tipitina and the Maple Leaf Bar offer a wide variety of joyous sounds, including zydeco, country, blues, rock, jazz, and several combinations.

The Maple Leaf, with a long, narrow music room next to the bar, also has a patio, with a pool table. The lights in the music room cast an



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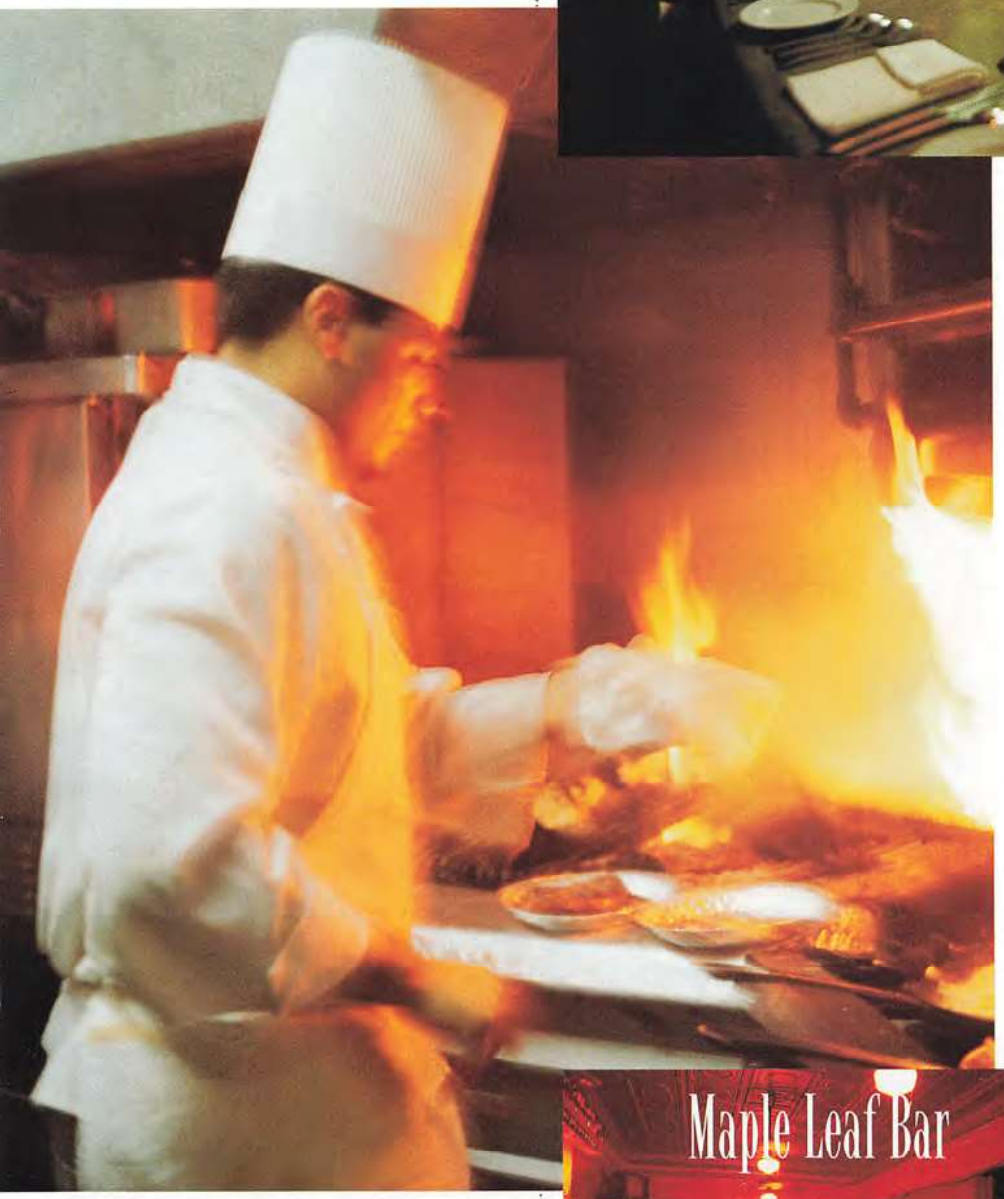
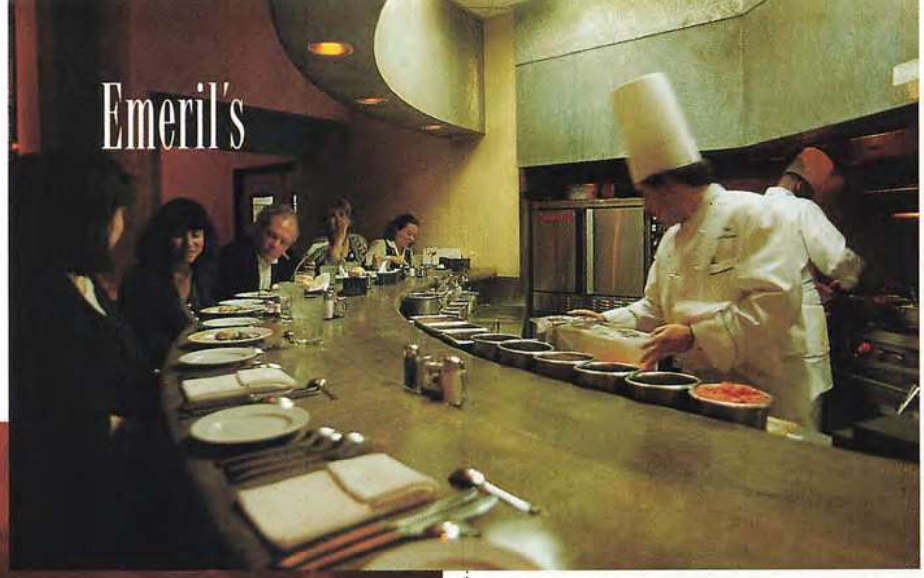
eerie red-orange glow on pressed tin walls and ceiling. Mondays are often solo piano night, and the past comes up to greet you when a pianist such as Joe Krown rolls into a rendition of an old favorite. The piano was an old one, without amplification, and Krown modulated the volume so we could think as well as listen. The small audience sat quiet-





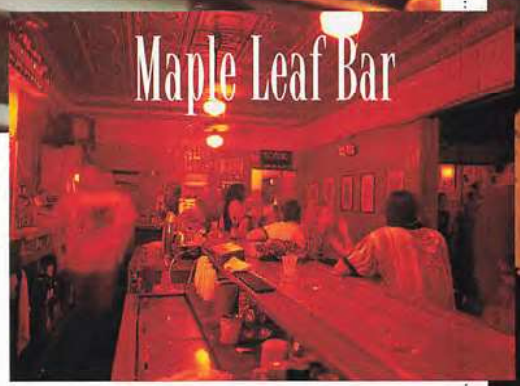
Artist at Work: *The patrons who gain a seat at the food bar at Emeril's get to examine more than a world class menu. They are able to watch the famous owner preparing his specialties.*

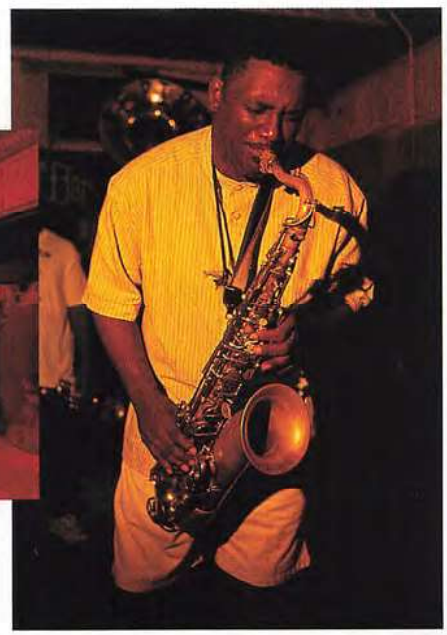
ly, heads thrown back, eyes gazing into childhood. The mood conjured the New Orleans of Nelson Algren, Tennessee Williams, and John Kennedy Toole.

Tipitina's is a larger room with similar, but larger, sounds. The room literally shakes in time to the music.

The fan of traditional jazz is drawn to Preservation Hall, a Mecca-like spot on a side street in the French Quarter. It is a place where devotees stand in line to enter, under two hanging instrument cases that bear the white-painted words "Preservation" and "Hall." The musicians are mostly older, comfortable with their music and their crowd. Behind them, an aged sign notes, "Requests: Traditional, $1; Other, $2; Saints, $5." There are some chairs, but many people sit on the floor and many others stand, patient and happy to hear jazz played so skillfully.

The Palm Court has no palm trees, but lots of potted impatiens, and it is more than just another traditional jazz spot in the Quarter. In addition to food, drink, and music, it also is a record store, jazz archive, and clearing house for music information. Old photographs of once-





Tipitina

great musical groups line the walls. As at Preservation Hall, the musicians are elderly and dignified, and they captivate their audience with practiced skills. They play smoothly, without showmanship or histrionics, the music taking precedence over the performers.

Coffee always has been important in this bustling, all-embracing seaport town. Strong, chicory-infused coffee was a New Orleans tradition long before Starbuck's discovered a thirsty nation. Kaldi's is a wonderful stop in the Quarter, a throwback to North Beach in San Francisco. Large windows open onto the French Market.

All types of coffee—and pastries—are available, with dark brownies high on a chocolate fancier's list. A sign on the Tip Jar, says, "Tips pay our slumlords, support our debaucheries, make us tax-paying, responsible citizens."

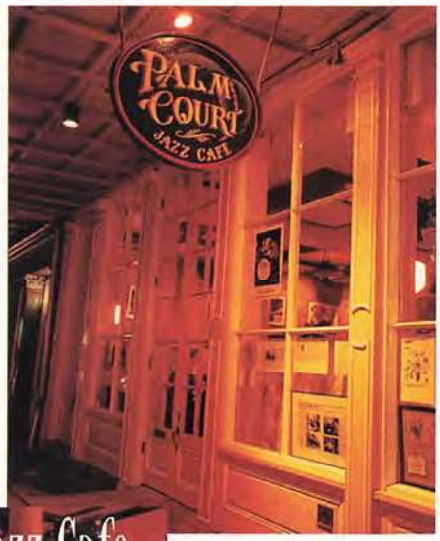
And then, as the lights blink out of the bar signs, and the clip-clop of the hooves of the carriage-pulling mules begins to resonate along Decatur Street, Cafe du Monde beckons.

The cafe, in the French Market, introduced many an American—and many a foreign tourist—to a pair of New Orleans wonders. First is the sheer joy of drinking strong coffee and eating beignets—those sweet, hot, glorious French doughnuts that spray snow showers of powdered sugar in all directions.

Palm Court Jazz Cafe

Second is the joy of sitting up very late, talking, maybe falling in love, maybe falling out, and watching the stars fade as the dawn arrives.

You will always have company at the Cafe du Monde, more than likely someone you know. I have been entertained by watching college cheerleaders practicing their routines and listening to suave young men practicing theirs. I have argued with dozens of traveling



sportswriters, given directions to strangers looking for their hotels, and offered an arm to friends looking for theirs.

New Orleans reminds me of a very good friend. It helps me lose my worries. It laughs with me. It feeds me well, and gives me good music. It asks no difficult questions, makes no demands, does not preach—and always smiles and waves when I leave. ⚜

Camellia Grill

"Our long national nightmare is over. 'The Larry Sanders Show' is back."

—Entertainment Weekly

"Brilliantly funny."
—TV Guide

"Brilliantly back, perhaps better than ever."
—Philadelphia Inquirer

"Television's funniest, nastiest comedy series finally returns for its fifth season."
—Chicago Sun-Times

"★★★★" *—USA Today*

"★★★★" *—Atlanta Constitution*

"Let Letterman and Leno slug it out. The real champ is 'The Larry Sanders Show.'"
—People

"One of the funniest, smartest comedies ever."
—Los Angeles Times

"★★★★" *—Detroit Free Press*

"★★★★" *—Detroit News*

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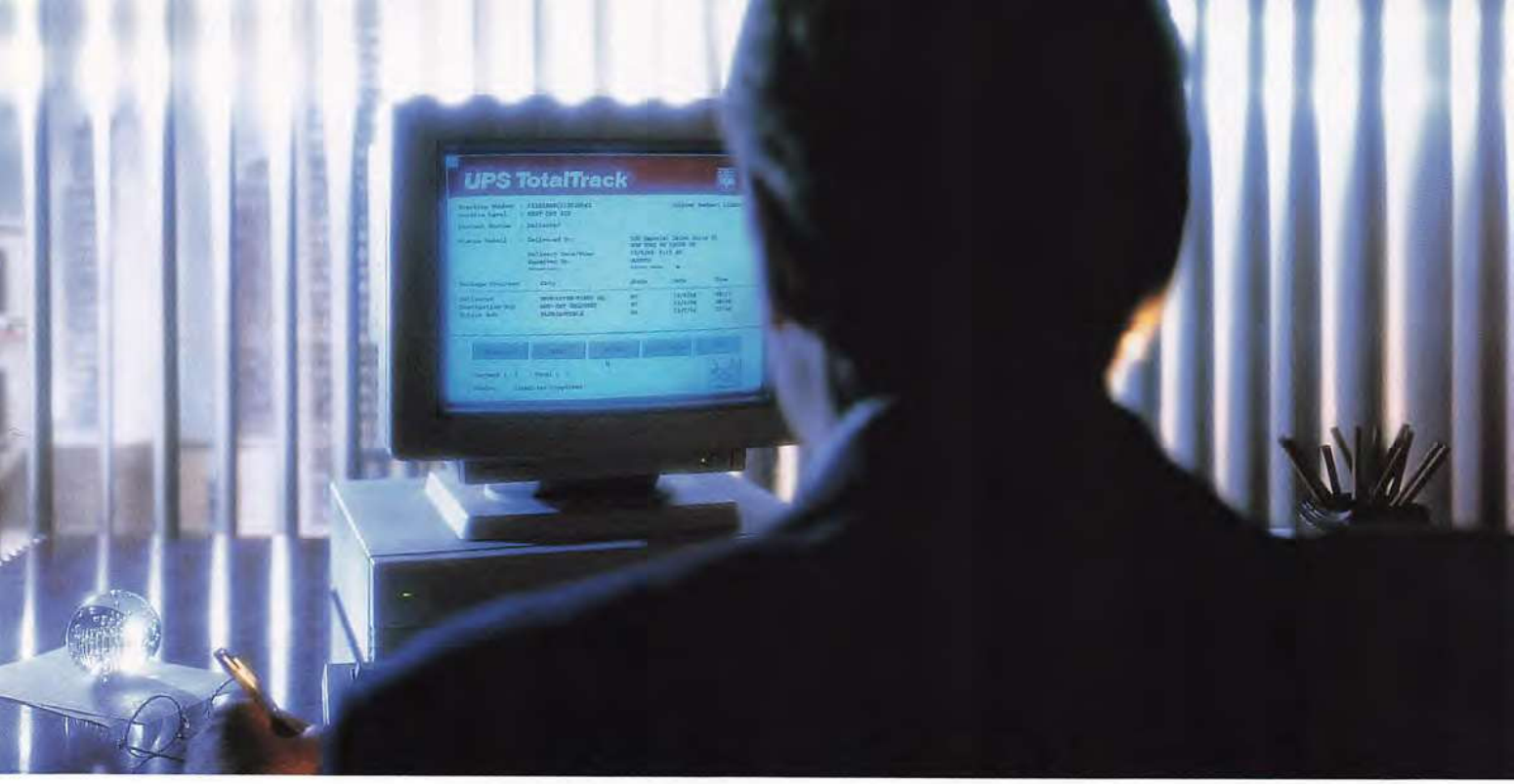

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scott ostler

Scoopman Talks

Behind the scenes and in the trenches at the Super Bowl

On the Sunday before Super Bowl Sunday, the two teams fly into the host city and are greeted on the tarmac by wildly cheering supporters.

The fans clamor behind chain-link fences topped with barbed wire, far from the players—or what the fans assume are the players. From this great distance, it could be the Dallas Cowboys, it could be the Budweiser Clydesdales.

The fence is a safety precaution. Players generally are well-behaved, but you never know when one might get excited and bolt into the throng of fans to sign autographs and shake hands.

The airport greeting is the only chance all week for the fans to see the players, who are kept isolated so they can get themselves focused. This is essential because if the players aren't focused, they will play poorly. Also, the newspaper photos of the game will be fuzzy.

How, then, can loyal fans monitor the hearts and minds of their heroes during this, the biggest football week of the year?

That's where I come in.

I cover the Super Bowl.

My mission, should I decide to accept it, is to capture the mood of the teams and the essence and flavor of Super Bowl week, process and package it all, and ship it farm-fresh to you, the consumer.

I call upon my specialized training and well-honed journalistic skills, which include:

- Sheer athleticism, to reach deftly through a wall of reporters to thrust a microphone into a linebacker's nostril.
- Courage, to ask the tough questions, such as, "What are you listening to on your Walkman?"
- Bulldog spirit, to dig for stories by peeking at the notes of reporters who got out of bed early enough to actually talk to the players.

I am a vital cog in the Super Bowl machinery because I am the link between the players and the fans, and also because I like to use the expression "vital cog."

I would invite you to spend a Super Bowl week with me in person, experiencing this amazing cultural phenomenon from the inside, but that's impossible because my hotel room is too small. It's so small, I have to go outside to change my syntax.

However, what I can do is take you on an insider's Super Tour by packing many years' worth of personal memories into one composite Super Week.

The Sunday Before:

Arriving teams march directly from their plane to a team bus. Except for the Dallas Cowboys, who march directly into limos they have hired to whisk them into the city, where they will unwind from the arduous two-hour flight.

Some of the Cowboys have rented limos for the entire week and will be chauffeured to and from practices. A reporter asks coach Barry Switzer what message this sends to players who can't afford limos.

"Well," Switzer says, "play better and get paid more."

The Cowboys have not yet mastered the humble, low-key approach to the Super Bowl.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HANLEY

Monday:

In the mammoth Media Center, I am issued a press pass that I will wear around my neck all week, except when showering. Scientists can track animals in the wilderness with a tiny ear staple, but I am required to wear a plastic placard the size of an automobile license plate, bearing a photo of me looking as if I just have been released from a Turkish prison.

Still, the pass is worn with pride. I am part of an elite corps of Super Journalists that Lester Hayes of the Raiders fondly called "Scoopmen." I assume Lester is not referring to the circus workers who follow the elephants.

Today is Photo Day, the first official intermingling of press and players. After the morning session, the media is pointed toward a massive buffet of eggs, pancakes, sausage, and bacon known as Mount Cholesterol.

Before the week is over, we will confront a veritable Himalayan range of free food and

drink, compliments of the NFL and various corporate sponsors.

I typically gain 40 to 50 pounds during Super Week. Fortunately, the weight is mostly media notes and publicity handouts, and I will lose it quickly by cleaning out my pockets and briefcase.

Photo Day affords the media an opportunity to see what football heroes look like wearing regular uniforms accessorized by cowboy boots, earrings, necklaces, hipster shades, and funny hats.

One notices details. Deion Sanders is dazzling, dripping with gold and diamonds. His fingernails are manicured and highly lacquered. The nail on his left pinkie is long enough to be a cockroach's jai alai cesta.

Downtown Julie Brown, TV person, is working the event with her hard-hitting interview technique, which involves a lot of playful inspection of biceps. She seems to have a good feel for the players, so a reporter asks her who will win the game. Brown predicts victory for "the team whose quarterback has the best buns."

It seems silly, but I make a mental note to check it out at the next morning's interview sessions.

Tuesday:

Checking out the quarterbacks' buns: Jim Kelly of the Bills is eating a stale croissant. Jeff Hostetler of the Giants enjoys flavorful, fiber-laden muffins. Tab the Giants.

The morning interview sessions begin in earnest. General rule: Great teams talk great because they are confident, and because bluster and trash talk can be useful psychological tools in football.

General Rule: Great teams talk great because they are confident, and because bluster and trash talk can be useful psychological tools in football.

As Raiders defensive end Howie Long explains, "Intimidation is eighty percent of the game. Half the game is mental, the other half is conditioning."

I hope Howie doesn't do his own income taxes.

Wednesday:

Football talk can get tedious, but moments of real humanity break through. At his interview table, Mark Seay of the Chargers is telling reporters the moving and frightening story of how he saved his niece's life a few years ago by shielding her with his body during a drive-by shooting. He took several bullets, one of which cost him a kidney.

It's a quietly emotional session, until a TV reporter sticks a mike into Seay's face and barks, "Mark! The shooting, in twenty-five words or less!"

Thursday:

A day for profound statements.

Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly, asked about the ongoing Gulf War, says, "War is stupid."

Singer Michael Jackson, star of the halftime show, holds a press conference to preview his new song and to explain, "We must join together and make the world a better place."

The Cowboys' Nate Newton is holding court. Nate is every reporter's pal, the Round Mound of Profound Sound.

Newton says he comes from a family of large people. His grandmother? "She was filled up."

So is Nate, but so what? As Newton observes, "I'm lookin' at some of you skinny guys, and you still look bad."

Friday:

For a change of scenery, I flee the epicenter of fun and games, drive a few miles to Los Angeles's infamous skid row. Do people with no homes and no hope care about the Super Bowl in their city?

Almost everyone I talk to has an opinion of the game, and a favorite team. On a corner, four men are debating the game. "I think Buffalo's too hungry," one says. "They're gonna make mistakes."

For many, the problem will be finding a place to watch the game. Some aren't even squared away enough to be allowed into the shelter known as the Misery House. "The way some of us look," a guy says, "man, you can't just walk into a bar."

One man says he lost his job last week after being robbed and stabbed with an ice pick while waiting at this very bus stop.

"Buffalo," he says proudly. "That's my team."

Saturday:

Last-minute details and concerns.

Coaches worry obsessively about secrecy, but Washington's Joe Gibbs is more paranoid than average. He has expressed particular concern this week about spies and security.

One writer speculates that Gibbs became suspicious when he saw a copy of the Redskins' playbook for sale on the magazine rack of a 7-Eleven.

The San Diego police have arrested 111 hookers during Super Week. Putting a positive spin on the story, one writer notes:

a. The police didn't try to use a Roman numeral for the arrest total.

b. None of the ladies were scalping tickets.

c. All are expected to get time off for good behavior.

Super Sunday:

The hard-working Scoopmen and Scoopwomen are beginning to resemble their press-badge photos, but the end is in sight. This is Game Day. We are nothing if not focused.

First stop is the pregame media brunch. We eat and eat, knowing this may be our last really big meal until the postgame buffet. ⚜

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO EMMITT SMITH'S PINKIE, THE NEXT FINGER TO GET A RING. AND TO MY JACKET, IT'S THE SAME ONE HE WEARS. NOT EVEN A TORNADO COULD KEEP ME AWAY FROM WATCHING HIM GO OUT TO PLAY.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, I WIN THAT SWEEPSTAKES AT CHAMPS.

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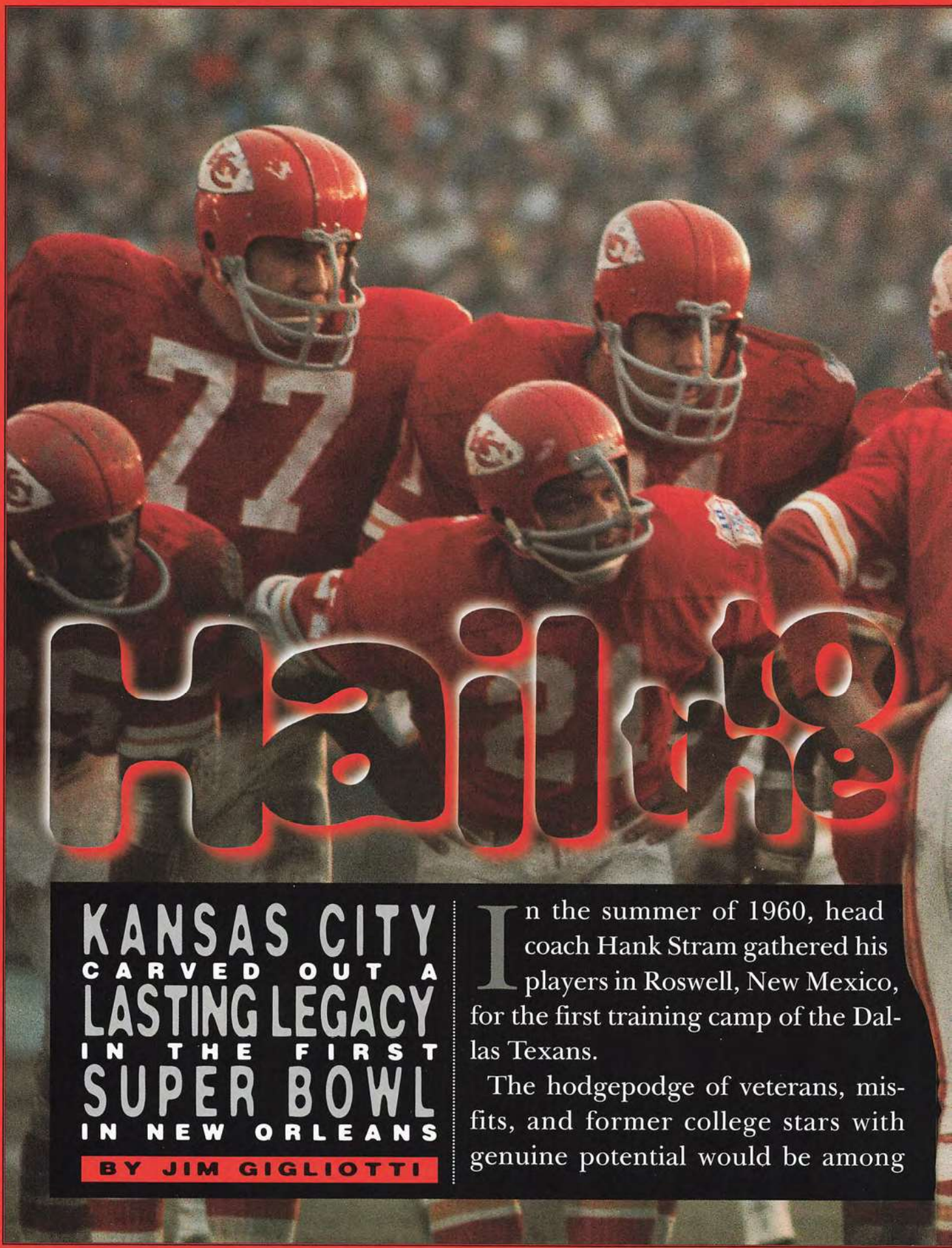

Hail to

KANSAS CITY CARVED OUT A LASTING LEGACY IN THE FIRST SUPER BOWL IN NEW ORLEANS

BY JIM GIGLIOTTI

In the summer of 1960, head coach Hank Stram gathered his players in Roswell, New Mexico, for the first training camp of the Dallas Texans.

The hodgepodge of veterans, misfits, and former college stars with genuine potential would be among

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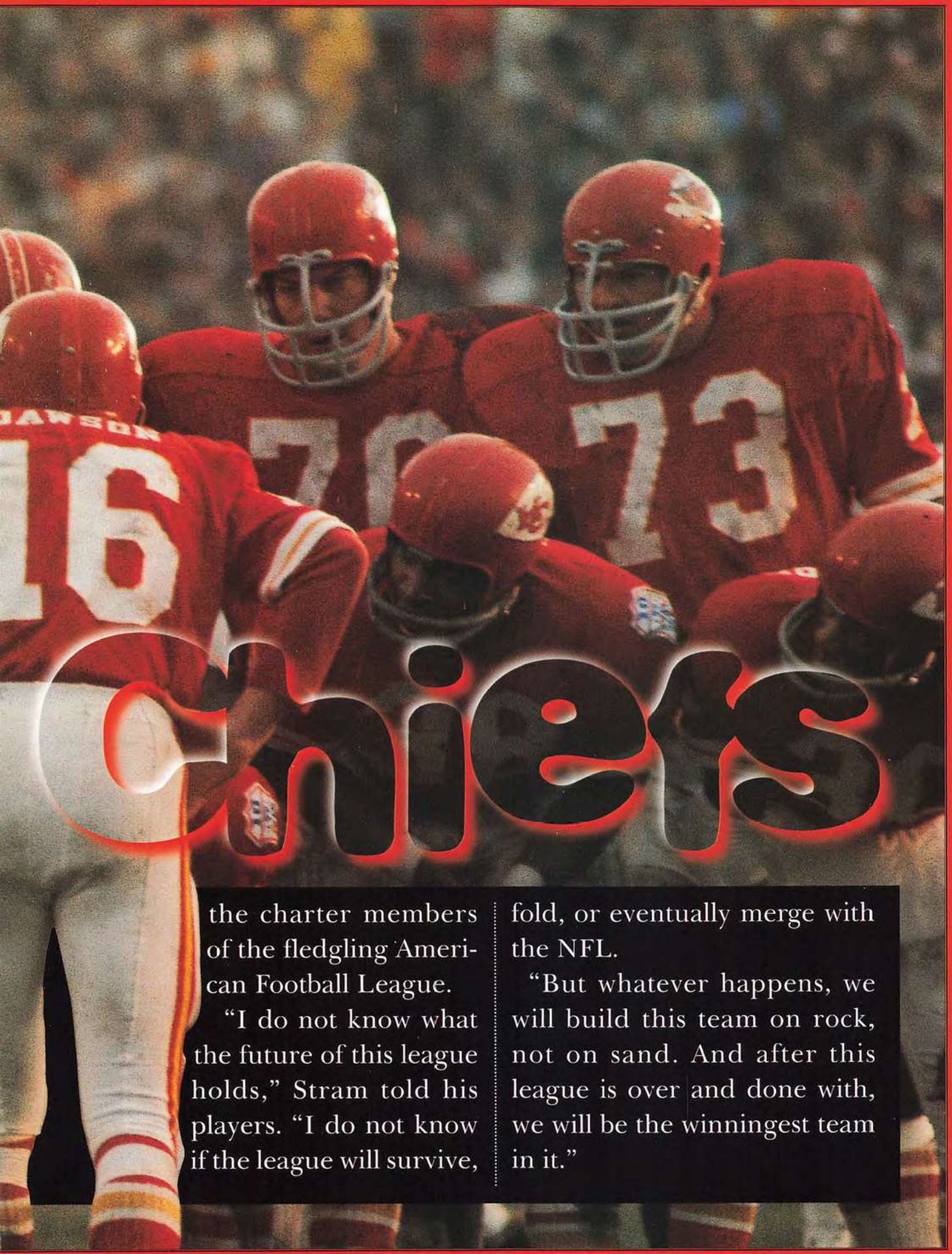


Chiefs

the charter members of the fledgling American Football League.

"I do not know what the future of this league holds," Stram told his players. "I do not know if the league will survive, fold, or eventually merge with the NFL.

"But whatever happens, we will build this team on rock, not on sand. And after this league is over and done with, we will be the winningest team in it."

Stram may or may not have believed his sales pitch, but he could not have foreseen that a decade later his Kansas City Chiefs (the Texans moved from Dallas in 1963 and were renamed in honor of Kansas City mayor H. Roe Bartle, a.k.a. "The Chief") would close the book on the AFL when they played the NFL's Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV in New Orleans following the 1969 season. In 1970, terms of a merger agreement between the rival leagues took effect, with all teams playing under the NFL banner and split into American and National Football Conferences.

Stram could not have foreseen all that because (1) the Minnesota Vikings did not field a team until 1961, and, (2) the Super Bowl wasn't even a glimmer in NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle's eye as the sixties began.

Fate brought the Chiefs and Vikings together for Super Bowl IV. Originally, the Vikings were to join the Texans and six other franchises in the AFL's first year, but the club pulled out in late January, 1960—one day before being granted an NFL franchise to begin play in 1961.

The expansion Vikings ascended quickly, suffering only three losing seasons before going 8-5-1 in 1964. They won their first division title in 1968. In 1969, they led the NFL with a 12-2 record. They scored more points (379) than any other NFL team that year and allowed the fewest (133). Their 12-game winning streak—Minnesota lost only the first and last games of the regular season—was the longest single-season string in the NFL in more than three decades. The Vikings rallied past Los Angeles 23-20 in the 1969 Western Conference playoff, then humbled Cleveland 27-7 in the NFL Championship Game to reach the Super Bowl for the first time.

Kansas City, 11-3, finished second in the AFL West in 1969, behind Oakland at 12-1-1. But for the first time in AFL history, a two-tiered playoff format was employed that year—the second-place finisher in one division played the winner of the other division, and the winners advanced to the title game. The Chiefs upset the defending Super Bowl-champion Jets 13-6 in New York, and Oakland, playing at home, crushed Houston 56-7.

The week of the AFL Championship Game against Oakland, Mark Duncan, an executive in the NFL offices, had intercepted Stram on the way to a regularly scheduled press conference.

"Will you ride over with me?" Duncan asked.

Stram declined politely, saying he'd rather go over on the bus with his players.

"We need to discuss something important," Duncan said. "Something very serious."

Stram relented, and Duncan went on to tell him that a Detroit gambler named Donald Dawson was being investigated by the Justice Department, and that Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson (no relation) was among various players rumored to have ties to him. The story was to break that weekend.

"This was terrible news," Stram says, "but we had to prepare for it. Lenny told us he met the guy while he was in Pittsburgh [Len Dawson played for the Steelers from 1957-59] but had talked to him only a couple of times. Still, we expected the worst."

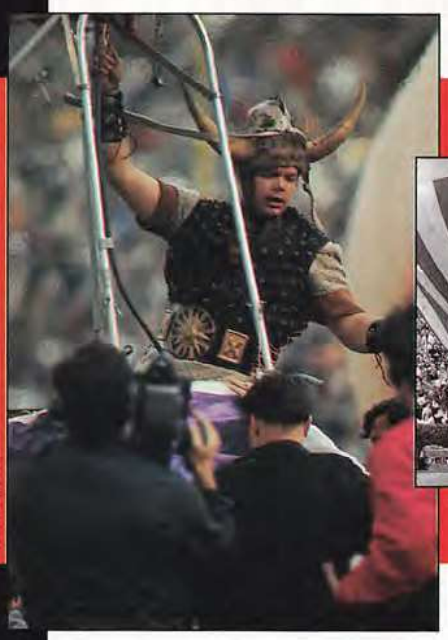
Later in the week, Duncan called with good news. There would be no story breaking that weekend.

"All you have to worry about is winning the game," Duncan said.

The Chiefs did, breaking a 7-7 halftime tie to win 17-7.

The first three Super Bowls were played in Los Angeles (I) and Miami (II and III). Average temperature: about 70 degrees.

Super Bowl IV was the first to be played in New Orleans. When the Chiefs arrived in Louisiana they took a bus from the airport to their hotel. They stepped off the bus to see the fountain frozen over in front of their ac-



Rough Start: *A balloon crashed into the stands during pregame festivities. Pat O'Brien's microphone (middle) went dead. Al Hirt's trumpet saved the day.*

commodations. "Welcome to the sunny South," Hank Stram said.

Almost immediately, Minnesota was proclaimed an 11-point favorite. By game time, the difference had grown to 13.

"I don't know who makes the odds," Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson said. "It wasn't Hank Stram."

On Tuesday of Super Bowl week the gambling story broke on NBC's *Huntley-Brinkley Report*.

A Justice Department Task Force in Detroit reportedly was set to call seven professional football players, including Dawson, to testify on their relationship with known gamblers.

"We spent all day Tuesday dealing with that and getting it behind us," Stram says. "We endured. We hid Lenny out in my suite a lot and got through the week."

Dawson never was implicated in any misdeeds. But the damage was done.

"It was, beyond a doubt, the toughest week of my life," he says now.

Safety Johnny Robinson was Dawson's roommate in New Orleans. "It looked to me like Lenny aged two years from Tuesday to Thursday," he said then.

Not everyone believed the gambling investigation deserved to be aired. *Sports Illustrated* did not even mention it in its story on the Chiefs' victory.

"I look back on our coverage and it was a one-day bang-bang thing and then it was over," says Bob Roesler, then the sports editor of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. "But I remember when Pete Rozelle held his press conference at the old Roosevelt Hotel, two or three writers almost went at it arguing over whether this was a legitimate story."

For their part, Kansas City's players pretty much ignored it.

"None of us understood it and none of us were interested in it," running back Mike Garrett says.

"It was a blessing that we had only one week between games," Stram says. "Had there been two weeks [as is customary now], it really would have been a circus."

The Chiefs benefited from the short layoff in another way: Minnesota had little time to prepare for Kansas City's myriad of sets and offensive schemes.

The Chiefs also sprang a defensive surprise, their infrequently used "triple-stack" defense—with the linebackers stacked behind the line.

"We used that to our advantage," Stram says. "We looked at films they were looking at of us, and we hadn't used the stack much."

The day before the game, almost as if he sensed an upset, Ed Sabol of NFL Films approached Stram about wiring him for sound on the sidelines.

"Why me?" Stram asked.

"Because [Vikings coach] Bud Grant isn't animated," Sabol said. "Besides, I think the Chiefs have a great chance to win. Also, Hank, you don't use profanities."

"You're damn right I don't," Stram said.

Stram felt the Chiefs could limit Minnesota quarterback Joe Kapp's effectiveness by keeping him in the pocket.

Neither artistic nor flashy, Kapp was at his best when he was improvising. And his toughness was legendary.

"Most quarterbacks look for somewhere to run out of bounds," Vikings coach Bud Grant once said. "Mine looks for someone to run into."

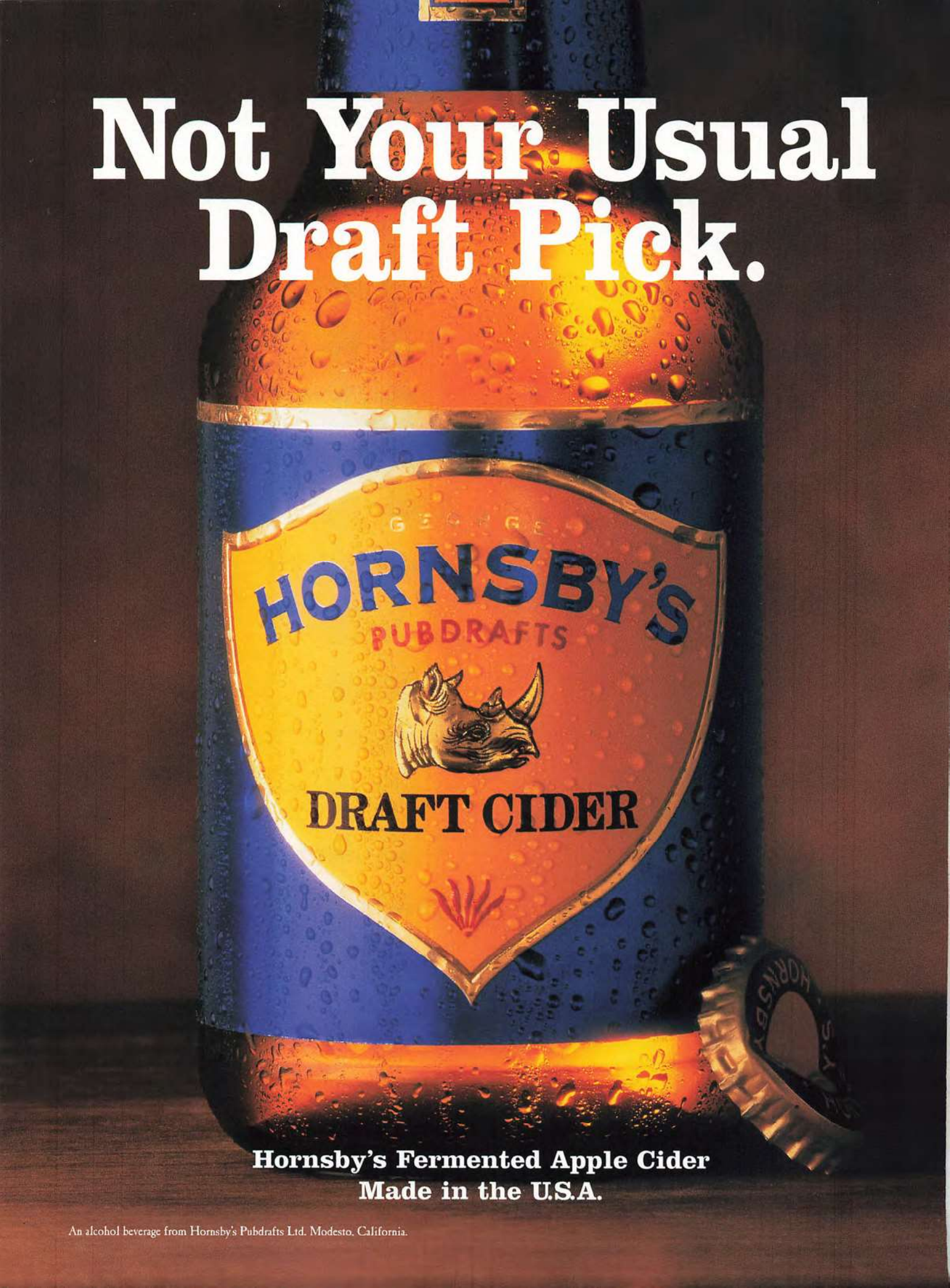
Kansas City had been routed by the Packers 35-10 in Super Bowl I. Much of the same cast returned for game IV.

"In game one, we gave Green Bay way too much credit," Garrett says. "They were an excellent team, of course, but we never allowed ourselves to get into our own game.

"So going into Super Bowl IV we said we had to give ourselves a chance to win the game. We told ourselves not to be hesitant when the opportunity came."

> ***"It was a blessing that we had only one week between games. Had there been two weeks [as is customary now], it really would have been a circus."***
>
> **— Hank Stram**

Beating the Odds: *Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson put aside all questions about his alleged involvement with a known gambler and completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown. Dawson was named the game's MVP.*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The Chiefs believed they were carrying the flag for the whole AFL.

"It wasn't just the Chiefs against the Vikings," Garrett says. "It was the AFL against the NFL."

"You can't overemphasize what representing the league meant to our team," Stram says. "We knew we were representing the whole AFL. We found that out at the first Super Bowl. The AFL was like one big family."

For Super Bowl IV, Stram had an AFL patch sewn on the Chiefs' jerseys. "You could not believe it when you saw the faces of the players," he says. "These were great men, and great pros, but they were like kids in a candy shop when they saw that patch."

"It lit us up," linebacker Willie Lanier says. "We knew what it meant."

The field in Tulane Stadium was a muddy mess on game day. The weather had been rainy and cold much of Super Bowl Week—the temperature one day was 22 degrees, a 90-year low for the date.

When a large float to be used in the pregame was rolled to the field, it got stuck in mud halfway up its wheels. That was only the beginning of a host of pregame problems. Two balloonists, one dressed as a Chief, the other a Viking, were to ascend during the pregame show. The Kansas City balloon took off without incident, but the Vikings' balloon rose only a few feet before crashing into the stands.

Moments later, as actor Pat O'Brien began to recite the National Anthem to the accompaniment of trumpeters Al Hirt and Doc Severinsen, his microphone failed.

Shortly before kickoff, the stadium public address announcer told the crowd a tornado had been spotted in the area. Jaws dropped among NFL officials in the press box.

"That led to some changes," says former NFL administrator Don Weiss, who didn't need a crowd unduly concerned (no tornado came close to the stadium). "In future games I sat next to the public address announcer so we knew what he was going to say next."

Dawson passed 17 yards to Garrett on the Chiefs' second play from scrimmage. Three plays later, Kansas City's quarterback teamed with Frank Pitts on a 20-yard completion.

"We realized then we could move the ball on them," Garrett says. "We just all kind of looked at each other and said, 'Hey, we can win this game.'"

When their first drive stalled at the Chiefs' 39-yard line, the Vikings punted. When Kansas City's initial drive stalled at the Minnesota 41, Jan Stenerud trotted onto the field for a field-goal try.

"When we sent Stenerud in for the field goal, we could see the Vikings were laughing," Stram says. "They were nudging each other, saying, 'Look at that.'"

Stenerud was a native of Norway who had attended Montana State on a skiing scholarship. The story goes that he was walking past the football field one day when an errant ball came his way. He kicked it back. The coach was so impressed he made sure Stenerud tried out for the team.

Stenerud's 48-yard kick put Kansas City ahead 3-0. "The ball was still going up last time I saw it," Stram says. "I don't know if they ever did find it."

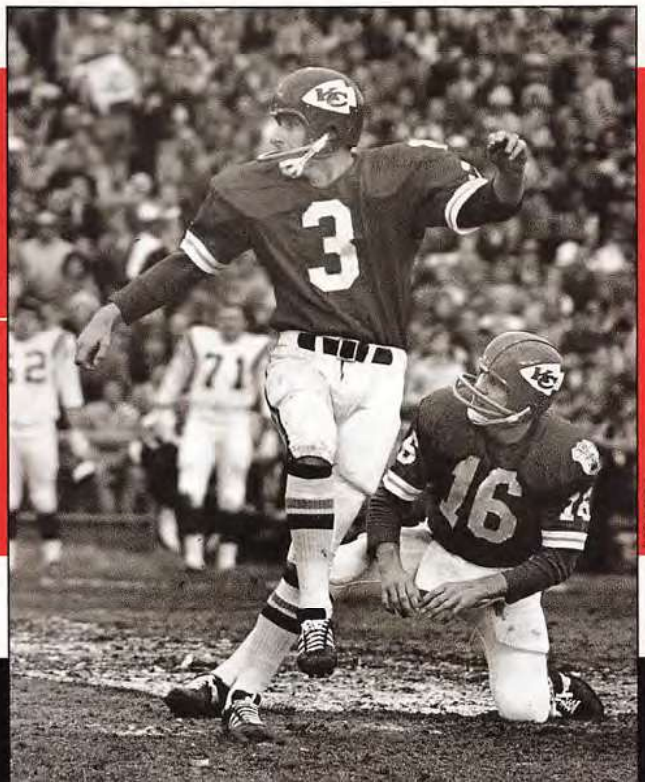
Dawson planned to pick at the Vikings by using short counts and throwing quick hitch passes. After a string of early successes, Stram encouraged him to keep throwing.

"That stuff in front is like stealing," Stram told Dawson. "They can't cover that in a million years."

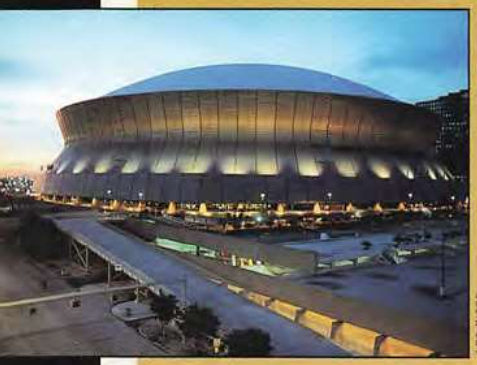
After Stenerud's third field goal, from 25 yards, gave Kansas City a 9-0 lead midway through the second quarter, the Chiefs recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff. That led to Garrett's 5-yard touchdown run and a 16-0 advantage 5:34 before halftime.

You can't overemphasize what representing the league meant to our team. The AFL was like one big family.

— Hank Stram



Norwegian Nightmare: *Jan Stenerud surprised the Vikings with a Super Bowl-record 48-yard field goal.*



LES RIESS

NEW ORLEANS SUPER BOWLS

Since Kansas City's 23-7 victory over Minnesota in Super Bowl IV following the 1969 season, the NFL has returned to New Orleans for its championship game six times. A capsule look at the six Super Bowls in New Orleans since IV and previous to XXXI:

Super Bowl VI January 16, 1972
Dallas 24, Miami 3
Roger Staubach passed for 2 touchdowns and Duane Thomas rushed for 95 yards and a touchdown in the Cowboys' methodical victory in Tulane Stadium. Dallas controlled the ball for nearly 40 of the game's 60 minutes by rushing for 252 yards. Staubach completed 12 of 19 passes for 119 yards and was named the game's most valuable player.

Super Bowl IX January 12, 1975
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
MVP Franco Harris rushed for 158 yards and a touchdown, and the Steelers' defense dominated the Vikings in Tulane Stadium. Minnesota managed only 119 total yards, including just 17 rushing yards. Owner Art Rooney was rewarded with his first championship after more than 40 years with the Steelers. "No man ever deserved it more," NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle said.

Super Bowl XII January 15, 1978
Dallas 27, Denver 10
In the first Super Bowl played in the Superdome, quarterback Roger Staubach and running back Robert Newhouse threw touchdown passes for the Cowboys. But it was Dallas's defense that was dominant, forcing 8 turnovers and sacking Broncos quarterbacks 4 times. Defensive end Harvey Martin and defensive tackle Randy White were named co-most valuable players.

Super Bowl XV January 25, 1981
Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
Jim Plunkett passed for 3 touchdowns and linebacker Rod Martin intercepted a Super Bowl-record 3 passes to lead the Raiders. Plunkett, who completed 13 of 21 passes for 261 yards, was named the game's MVP. He teamed with running back Kenny King on the key play, an 80-yard touchdown pass that gave Oakland a 14-0 lead late in the first quarter.

Super Bowl XX January 26, 1986
Chicago 46, New England 10
The Bears' suffocating 46 Defense held the Patriots to a record-low 7 rushing yards and 123 total yards, sacked New England quarterbacks 7 times, and forced 6 turnovers. Defensive end Richard Dent was the game's MVP. Chicago built a 23-3 lead and then rocked the Superdome with its videotaped rendition of the "Super Bowl Shuffle" at halftime.

Super Bowl XXIV January 28, 1990
San Francisco 55, Denver 10
Game MVP Joe Montana completed 22 of 29 passes for 297 yards and 5 touchdowns in a near-flawless performance as the 49ers solidified their position as the Team of the Eighties with their fourth Super Bowl victory. Jerry Rice caught 3 touchdown passes and San Francisco established Super Bowl records for both points and margin of victory.

At halftime, coach Bud Grant was typically succinct in the Vikings locker room. "Just play better," he told his team.

Stram, who could not contain his glee after Garrett's touchdown run, was similarly low-key.

"Thirty minutes more and we are world champions," he told his troops. "Play control ball."

The halftime festivities fared little better than the pregame show. Simulated cannon blasts in a recreation of the Battle of New Orleans scared horses who threw their riders. One man lost a finger in a mishap with a cannon.

"If Murphy's Law hadn't been invented yet, that day did it," Don Weiss says.

Fans in Kansas City surely would have disagreed. They were spellbound by what they had seen on TV.

According to an *Associated Press* story, police in Kansas City got only 25 percent of the usual number of emergency calls for a Sunday.

There was only one burglary reported prior to kickoff. Reportedly, police waited to question the suspect until halftime. The suspect asked the first question: "Who's winning the game?"

For the first half, Kansas City had shut down Minnesota's potent offense, limiting the Vikings to 24 rushing yards and 96 total yards.

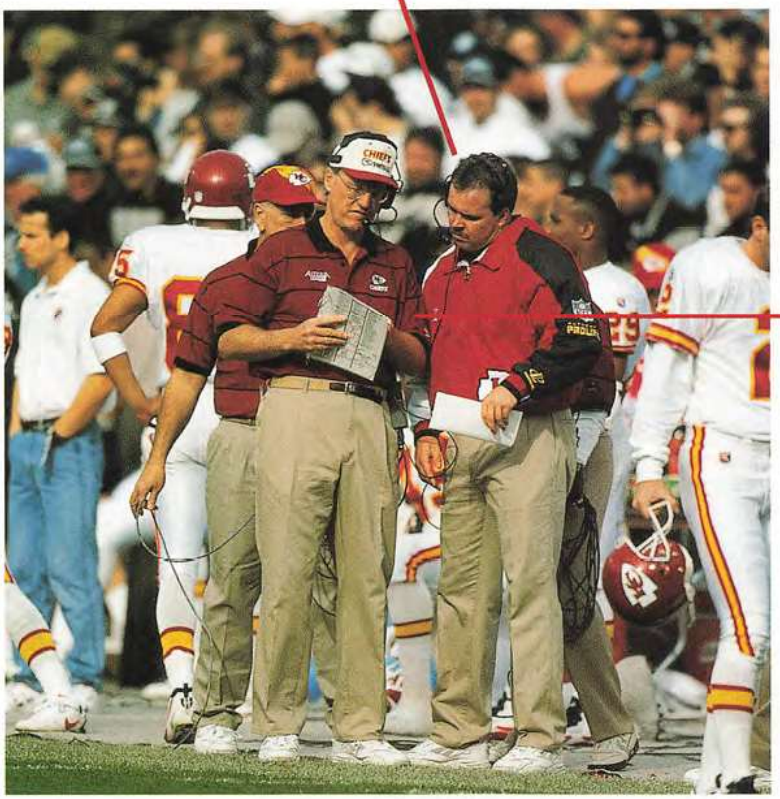
"We were in the stack over ninety percent of the time, and we never had played it that much before," defensive end Jerry Mays said. "Minnesota's recognition was destroyed."

The Vikings did not score on six first-half possessions, and crossed midfield only twice.

"We got the message the third or fourth time the Vikings got the ball and couldn't get a first down," Mays said.

Misfits to Champions: *Hank Stram (top) relied on talented athletes such as Mike Garrett (left) and Otis Taylor.*

"Nice pen."



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Minnesota pulled within 16-7 when Dave Osborn capped a 10-play, 69-yard drive by running 4 yards for a touchdown with 4:32 left in the third quarter. Then the Vikings forced the Chiefs into third-and-7 from the Kansas City 32. Momentum had shifted.

"I thought we still had a chance to win the game," Bud Grant says.

Early in the second quarter, wide receiver Frank Pitts had begun a drive from the Vikings' 44 with a 19-yard run on a reverse. Late in the second quarter he gained 11 yards on another reverse. Now, at this critical juncture in the third quarter, he ran 7 yards on the same play, picking up a first down by inches at Kansas City's 39.

"Frank did a masterful job running that day," Stram says.

The reverse was not a new wrinkle in the Chiefs' playbook, but it was a play Minnesota had not seen in any game films.

"The Viking defensive ends [Carl Eller and Jim Marshall] were pinching, and that gave me running room outside," Pitts said.

A personal foul penalty against the Vikings moved the ball to Minnesota's 46. Then came the decisive play of the game.

It was another hitch pass, this time to wide receiver Otis Taylor, who caught the ball at the 41, bounced off Vikings cornerback Earsell Mackbee, and covered the remaining distance for a touchdown that gave the Chiefs a 23-7 advantage with 1:22 left in the third quarter.

"I don't want to alibi, but earlier in the game I suffered a recurrence of a pinched nerve in my shoulder," Mackbee said. "I went numb as I drove into him. I know I didn't hit him very good, and he got away."

The air again was gone from the Vikings' balloon, this time figuratively. The 23-7 score held up.

Joe Kapp completed 16 of 25 passes for 183 yards but was intercepted twice and sacked 3 times. Defensive end Aaron Brown's 13-yard sack late in the game forced Kapp to the sidelines with a bruised shoulder. The battered quarterback ended the game sitting on the bench with a towel draped over his head.

"The Kansas City defense looked like a redwood forest," he said.

Dawson, who completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and 1 touchdown, was named the game's most valuable player.

"The entire week was quite an ordeal for me," he said. "But *I* didn't win the game, the whole team did."

Stram is more effusive.

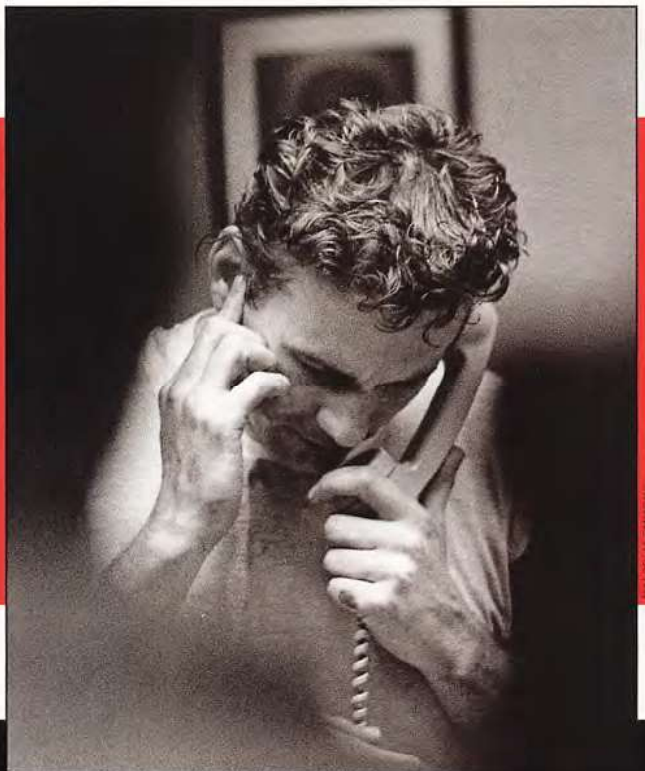
"Dawson's performance was one of the most courageous of all time," he says.

In the locker room, Dawson received a call of congratulations from President Richard Nixon.

"We knew before the game that Kansas City would be as good as any team we played all year," Grant says.

History has validated that assessment: Though Kansas City never reached the Super Bowl again, five members of that roster now are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame: linebacker Bobby Bell, linebacker Willie Lanier, quarterback Dawson, defensive tackle Buck Buchanan, and kicker Stenerud.

Kansas City's victory was the ninety-second (including postseason) in the franchise's brief history. The Chiefs won more games than any team in American Football League history—just as Stram had promised back in 1960. ⚜



Day and Night: *Joe Kapp was battered by the Chiefs. Len Dawson was congratulated by President Nixon.*

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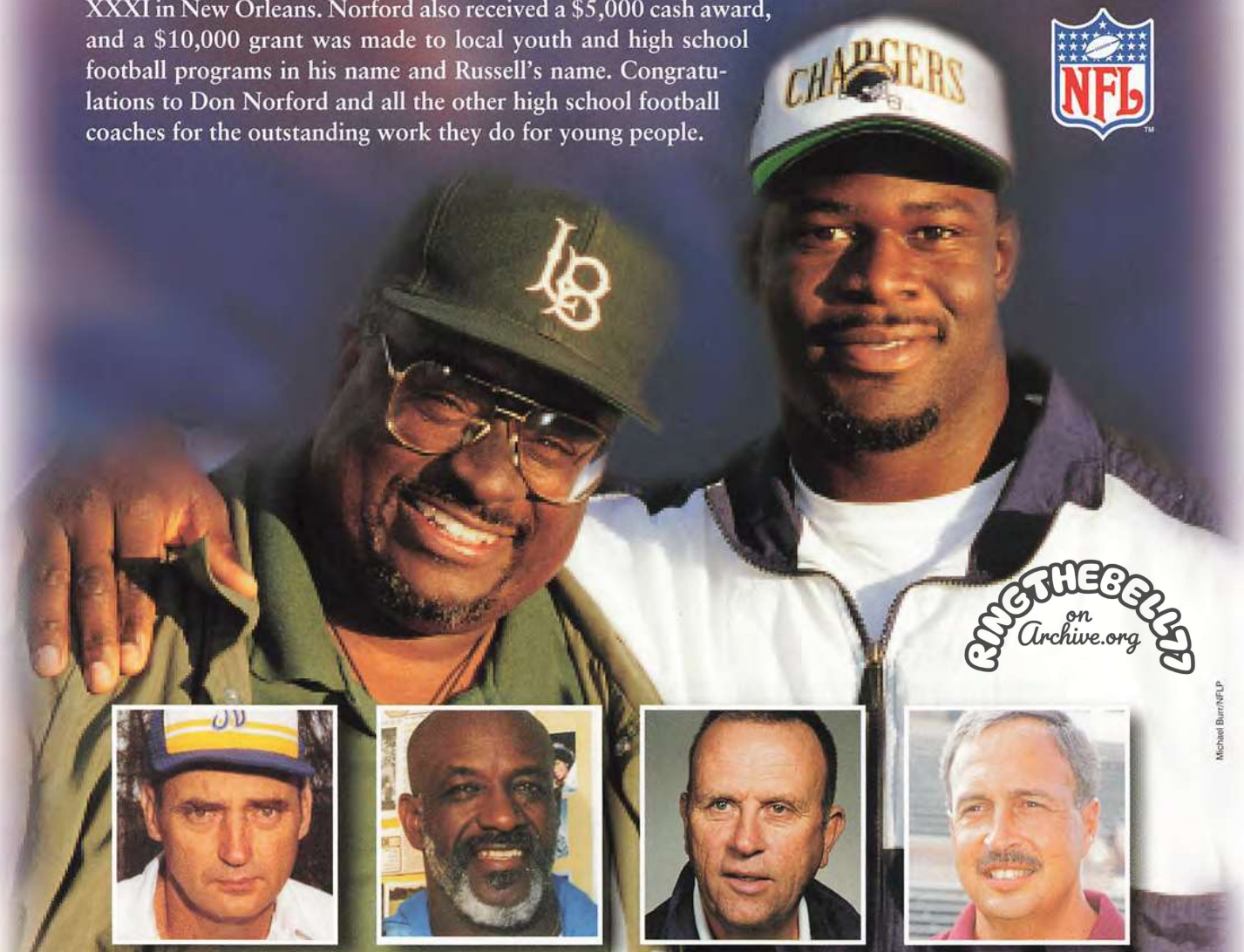
Saluting the 1996 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year

The players of the National Football League didn't get where they are by accident. It took a combination of talent, hard work, patience...and good coaching. That is why the NFL is proud to announce the winner of the 1996 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year award, which is presented annually to a deserving person who had a meaningful impact on an NFL player during his formative years. This year's recipient is Donald Norford of Long Beach Poly High School in Long Beach, California, who was nominated by running back Leonard Russell of the San Diego Chargers. Norford has coached 17 NFL players, including Mark Carrier, Marquez Pope, and Willie McGinest. He is the NFL's guest at Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans. Norford also received a $5,000 cash award, and a $10,000 grant was made to local youth and high school football programs in his name and Russell's name. Congratulations to Don Norford and all the other high school football coaches for the outstanding work they do for young people.



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Michael Burr/NFLP

SAM BUDNYK
Cardinal Newman High
(West Palm Beach, Florida)
Finalist—Nominated by John Carney (Chargers)

WILLIE GOLDSMITH
Northwestern High
(Miami, Florida)
Finalist—Nominated by Marvin Jones (Jets)

JIM REXILIUS
Wheaton North High
(Wheaton, Illinois)
Finalist—Nominated by Kent Graham (Cardinals)

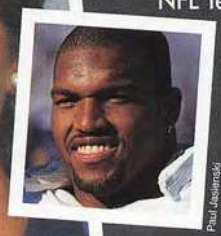
STEVE SAVARESE
Benjamin Russell High
(Alexander City, Alabama)
Finalist—Nominated by Cornelius Bennett (Falcons)

NFL Players Have Heroes, Too

Every month during the season, NFL players get a chance to thank the men and women who inspired them in the classroom by nominating them for the NFL Teacher of the Month Award.

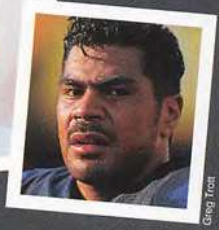
The award was created by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue in 1990 to "encourage our young fans to think of teachers, as well as athletes, as role models." Each of four monthly winners receives a $2,500 grant, and the teacher's school receives a $5,000 NFL scholarship. The NFL Teacher of the Year receives a $5,000 grant and his or her school is given a $10,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to the 1996 winners, as determined by a select panel of educators and civic leaders.



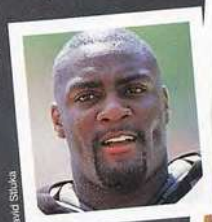
Paul Jasienski

TEACHER OF THE YEAR ▶
Teacher: Betsy Copolillo
Hendersonville High School
Hendersonville, North Carolina
Player: Sam Gash,
New England Patriots



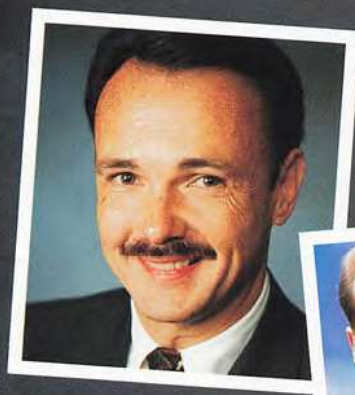
Greg Trott

◀ SEPTEMBER
Teacher: Donald Montamble
Oceanside High School
Oceanside, California
Player: Junior Seau,
San Diego Chargers



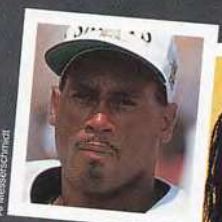
David Stluka

OCTOBER ▶
Teacher: Judith Cinnamond
Pemberton High School
Pemberton, New Jersey
Player: Irv Smith,
New Orleans Saints



David Draplkin

◀ NOVEMBER
Teacher: Philip Talbert
Warren Township School
District
Indianapolis, Indiana
Player: Jeff George



Al Messerschmidt

DECEMBER ▶
Teacher: Mildred White
McDonough 35 High School
New Orleans, Louisiana
Player: Michael Haynes,
New Orleans Saints

Teacher of the Month

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award Saluting Excellence in Education!

NFL

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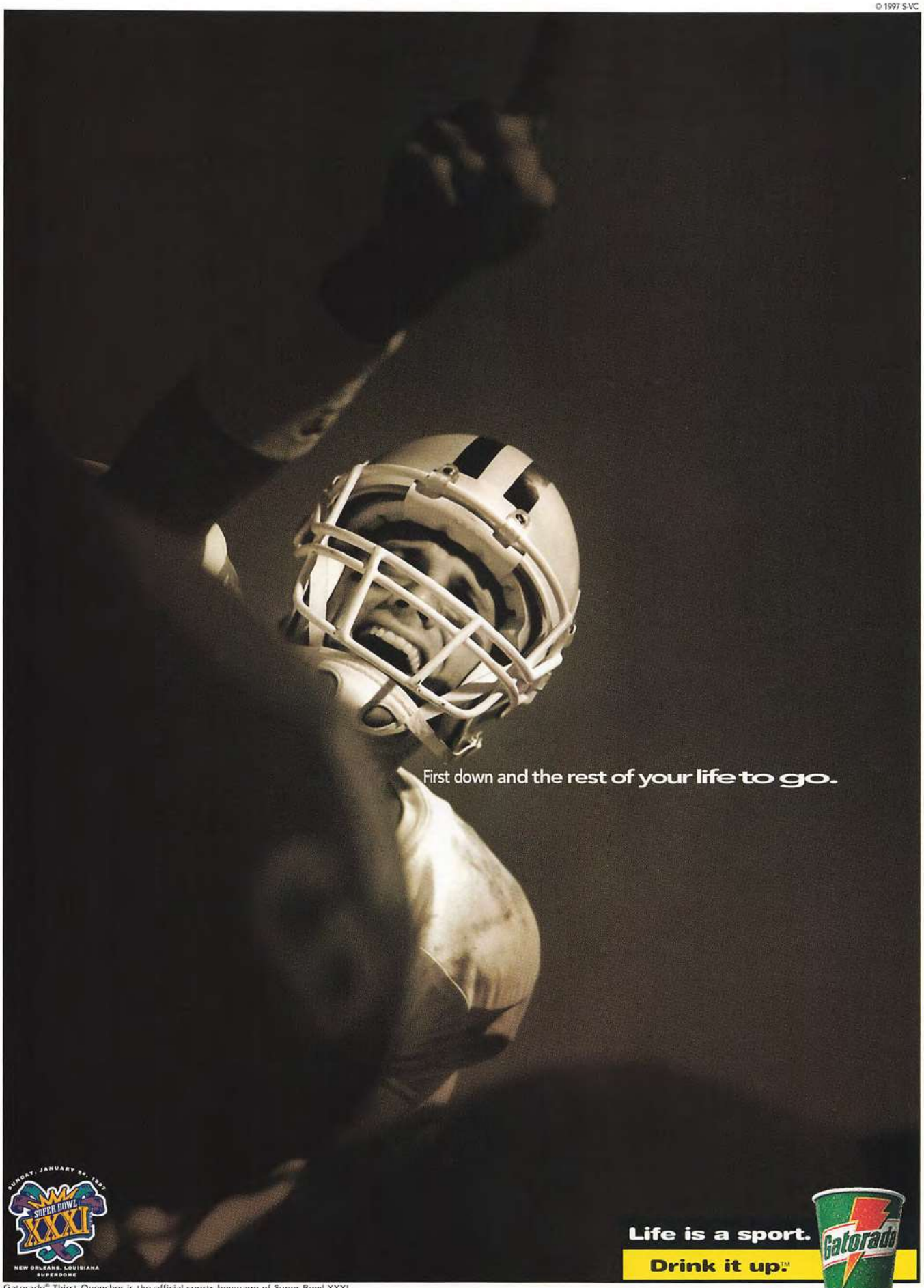

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jerry kramer

Everything Has Changed, Nothing Is Different

30 years later, a Packers star finds that the road to victory is the same

It has been almost 30 years since I last strapped on a football helmet, since I last stuck my face into a defensive tackle's chest, since I last helped lead the Green Bay sweep, the trademark of Vince Lombardi's Packers. I don't weigh any more than I did then, but the weight has been redistributed.

My playing days are behind me, but football still is a part of our household. As I write this, and the NFL season moves toward the playoffs that lead to Super Bowl XXXI, it is the last week of football for most high schools and many colleges. My youngest son, Jordan, is playing high school football; his brother, Matt, is playing college football.

Their older sister, Alicia, reminds me of the Thanksgiving dinner 10 or 11 years ago when I was sitting at the head of the table and asked everyone to give thanks. I said I was thankful for my family, for their health, and for the love that we shared. My wife Wink said she was thankful for grandma and grandpa. Alicia and Matt gave thanks for the good things in their lives. Finally we turned to Jordan, who was, I believe, 6 years old. After a long pause, Jordan said, in a very serious voice, "I'm thankful for the NFL."

Everyone laughed, but now, a decade later, I realize how much I share Jordan's feeling. I'm thankful for the NFL, too, thankful the league, Lombardi, and the Green Bay Packers allowed me to make a life with an extraordinary group of people, whom I also loved. The lessons I learned from Lombardi are forever in me and my children.

I also am thankful that football gives me a strong bond with my young sons.

Jordan competes on Friday for the Idaho State Championship. He plays for the Parma High School Panthers. Matt takes part on Saturday in the big intrastate collegiate game that matches his University of Idaho Vandals against the Boise State Broncos.

I grew up in Sandpoint, in northern Idaho. For the past 25 years, Wink and I have lived and raised our three children and several Chesapeake Bay retrievers on a 600-acre ranch along the Boise River, just outside of Parma. It's a long way from the excitement of New Orleans, New York, or even Green Bay. To much of the world, Boise, Idaho, is nowhere, and we live 40 miles from there, in a farming community of 1,700 people.

Wink and I drove to Pocatello to watch Parma face Glenns Ferry in the A-3 state championship game. The Panthers last won a conference title in 1978. Until 1996, Parma never had won a postseason playoff game.

Parma has only 19 players on its squad—11 starters, eight reserves. They've been together since grade school. The quarterback also plays on the defensive line. Almost everyone plays both ways. They're good kids—not loud, cocky or arrogant. They're solid young men with great work ethics.

This is football at its purest. It is about commitment, dedication, responsibility, discipline, consistency, love of the game—all the values Lombardi emphasized. No big bucks at this level. Nothing but hard work and sacrifice and dreams of glory. Come to think of it, it's not unlike Green Bay.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HANLEY

I see the kids pumping up each other, slapping each other, exhorting each other to play their best. In my mind, I see Ray Nitschke growling, and Fuzzy Thurston cheering, and Max McGee smiling, and I remember when we were all young and eager, full of optimism—full of fun, full of life, full of hope.

But that was then, and this is now, and I am as nervous as I was before Super Bowl I. Just like my playing days, I make three trips to the men's room before the kickoff.

Parma dominates Glenns Ferry, which had won 35 consecutive games. The final score is 26-6, a huge victory for the team and for the town. When the game ends, I find myself being congratulated for being a state champion, and I feel like one.

Early the next morning, Wink, Alicia, Jordan, and his friend and teammate, John Sexton, join me for the drive to Boise. This is the game of the year for both teams, Florida versus Florida State in miniature. I played for Idaho a million years ago. The Vandals'

coach, Chris Tormey, asks me to say a few words to his players before the game.

The locker room is like a thousand other locker rooms I have entered—the clanking pads, the rolls of tape. It is a hot and humid room, crowded with very large bodies, bigger than my Green Bay teammates. The Vandals' offensive line averages between 280 and 285 pounds a man. We averaged 250 to 255. Forrest Gregg and I would have been little guys on this team.

I tell Matt and his teammates that football is a game of emotion, a game of attitude, of fire and ice: fire in your belly and ice on your mind. The mind must stay cool, analytical, calculating. No dumb penalties. No stupid mistakes. Harness that emotion.

I watch from the sidelines. Partly I want to be close to the action. Partly, I just don't want to use up a precious ticket. I need all I can get for my family and friends. Tickets for the game are scarce—unlike tickets for Super Bowl I. When we played Kansas City in the Coliseum in Los Angeles, there were about 30,000 empty seats. The game wasn't quite Super yet.

The Vandals handle Boise State much better than we handled the Chiefs. Idaho builds a 55-6 lead, and coasts to a 64-19 victory.

What a weekend!

Sunday evening, the Packers are playing the Rams in St. Louis. I kick back in front of the big TV. The first half makes me feel lousy. The Rams lead 9-3. Green Bay seems to be playing tentatively, hesitantly. I shout advice at the TV set. *Don't think. React. It's a game of abandon. Let your instincts take over. Caution to the wind. Let it happen. Make it happen.*

My pep talk does the job again. The Packers rally in the second half and beat the Rams 24-9.

The weekend sets me thinking about football, about Green Bay, about the NFL. When I look at the NFL 30 years ago and the NFL today, a thought strikes me: Everything has changed, but nothing is different.

The players are bigger, stronger, faster, better athletes. One of my older sons, Dan, is a photo/journalist. When he was searching the archives of the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, he found a photo of me coming off the field. The caption refers to me as "Kramer, Gargantuan Guard." I also was known as "The Whale." I played at 255 pounds. That's a minnow today.

The players' bank accounts have grown, too. In my day, we didn't talk about our salaries. First, Lombardi forbid us to discuss our salaries. Second, we were embarrassed by how little we earned. Eight or nine years ago, I was playing golf at an NFL alumni outing in St. Louis, and I was with Ray Nitschke and John David Crow, an old teammate and an old opponent. I asked Ray, "What kind of bonus did you get as a rookie?"

I'd known Ray for more than a quarter of a century, but I still had no idea what he'd earned when we were teammates. He said, "I got five hundred, man." I said, "Damn, you doubled me. I only got two-fifty. I got $7,750 for the season and a $250 bonus." Ray opened his eyes wide and said, "You got eight thousand! I got only $7,700."

Another major difference in the game today is the media coverage. We used to have one writer from Green Bay and one from Milwaukee following us. We never had press conferences. The writers just wandered around the locker room talking to different guys. It wasn't like the swarm you see today. We had fun with the reporters. We weren't wary of them.

> **End zone to end zone, sideline to sideline, nothing has changed. You still need a great defense, a great offensive line, and a great running game to get to the Super Bowl.**

Of course, the coverage of the sport has grown tremendously, especially on television. With a satellite dish and a subscription to NFL SUNDAY TICKET, you can sit in front of a life-sized screen and flick back and forth among six or eight games and even watch more than one at a time.

And the Super Bowl has grown so much bigger than any of us possibly could have imagined. More people watch that game than saw us play in our entire careers.

But all these changes have taken place outside the lines. End zone to end zone, sideline to sideline, inside the playing field, nothing has changed. Not fundamentally, anyway.

You still need a great defense, a great offensive line, and a great running game to get to the Super Bowl. (I'm a little prejudiced about that offensive line part.) You still need the same qualities—commitment, preparation, discipline, courage, perseverance, a disdain for pain. You still learn the same lessons. Hard work does equate to success.

It's a huge step from high school football to college football, and another huge step to professional football. But it's still the same wonderful, demanding, rewarding, frustrating, exhilarating game.

I still love it.

Coach Lombardi once said, "All the rings, all the money, all the color, all the displays linger in the memory for only a short time and are soon gone, but the will to win, the will to excel, these are things that endure, and they are far more important than any of the events that occasion them."

Parma wins its first state championship. My alma mater wins the big game against Boise State. And the Packers beat the Rams.

What a weekend! And—icing on the cake—those damn Cowboys got beat! ⚜

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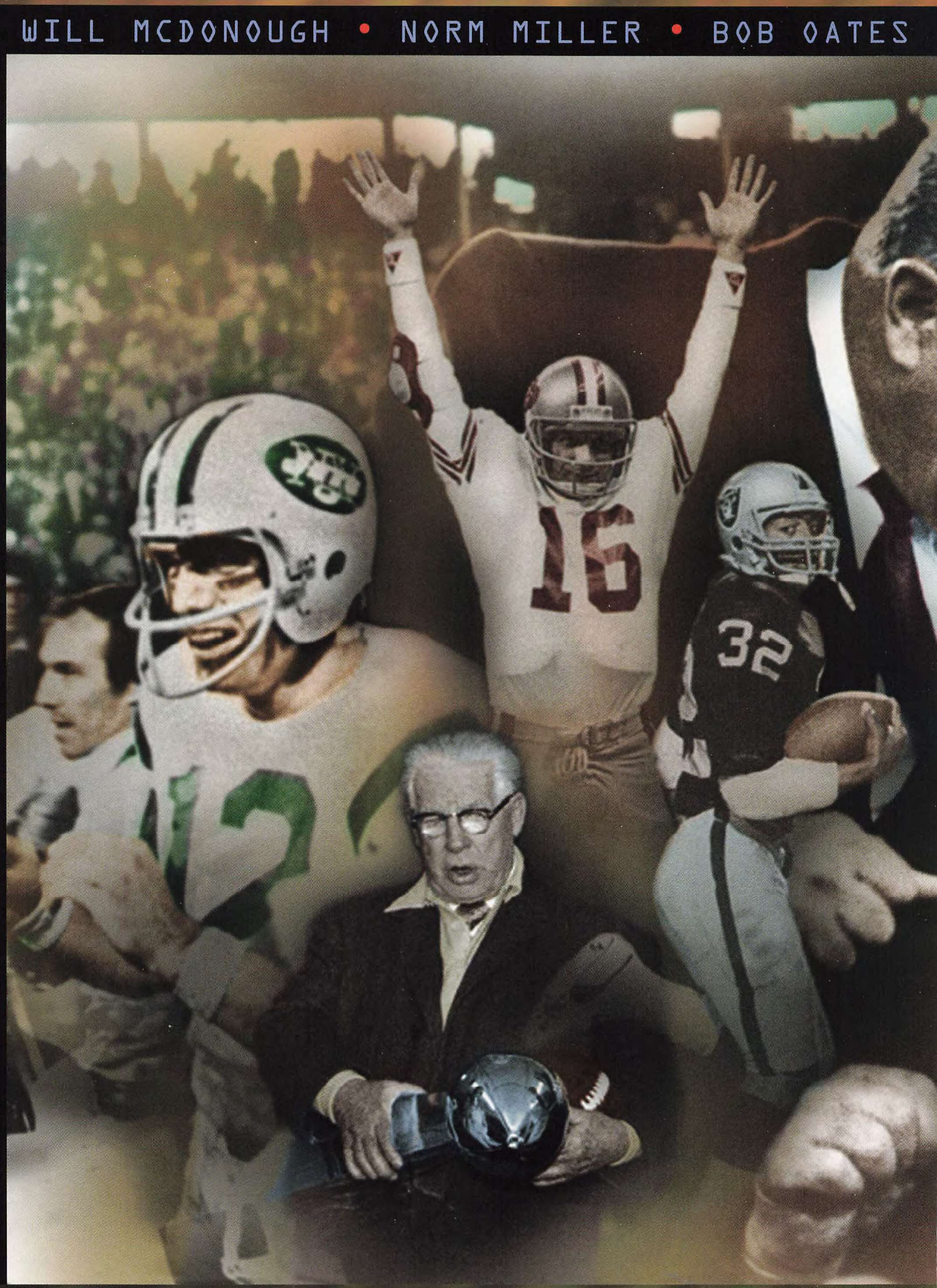
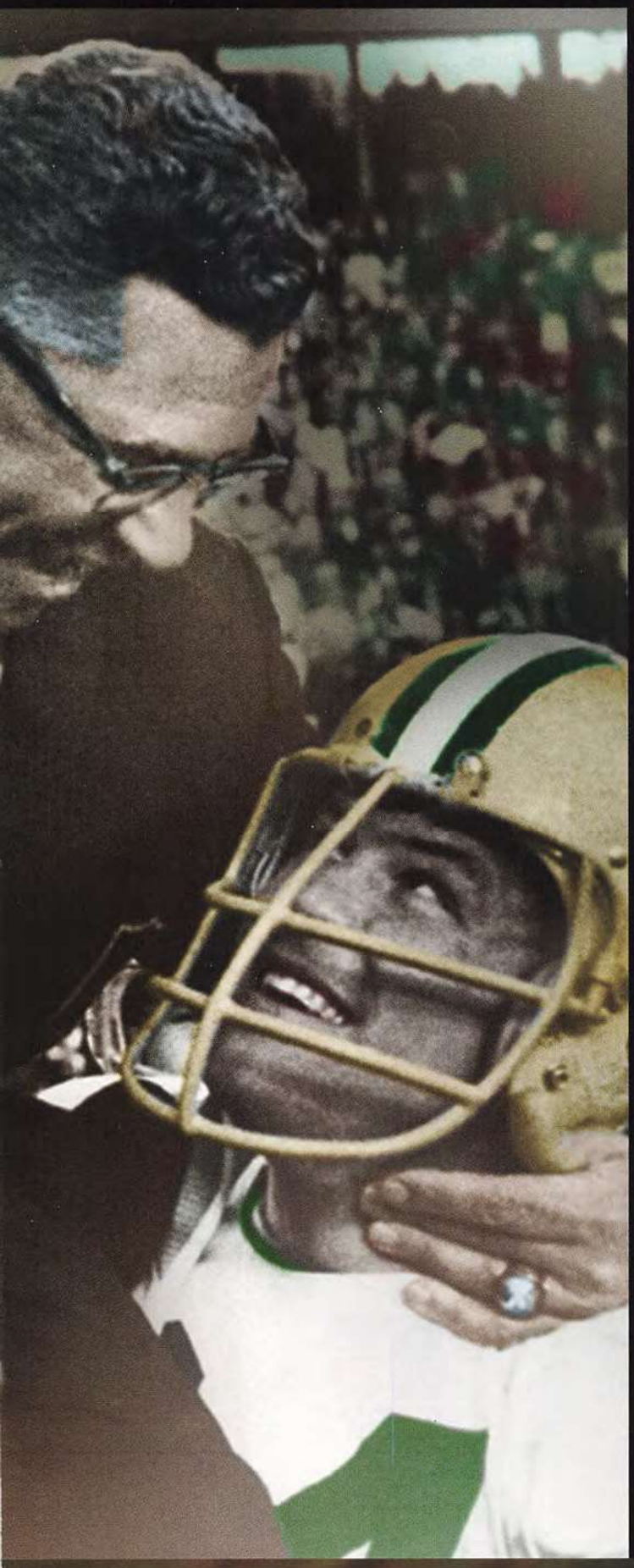


PHOTOS BY DARRYL NORENBERG, ROB BROWN, PITTSBURGH STEELERS, GREG CAVA, VERNON BIEVER. PHOTO MONTAGES BY SANDY GORDON.

EDWIN POPE • COOPER ROLLOW • JOHN STEADMAN



10 TIMES XXX

Memories of 10 Writers Who Have Seen Every Super Bowl

One of Norm Miller's favorite Super Bowl recollections is from the days leading up to Game IX, when Howard Cosell, the self-anointed beacon of electronic journalism, was preparing to conduct an up-close-and-personal interview at the Minnesota Vikings' motel.

"He made the mistake of positioning himself directly beneath a balcony," recalls Miller, who was standing nearby. "Some Vikings players sneaked up to the balcony, and, just as he was about to begin his

BY TOM BARNIDGE

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questioning, they dumped buckets of water on him."

Dave Klein thinks back 28 years to a hotel lobby in Miami, where he found himself stuck with four tickets to Super Bowl III when a friend was unable to attend.

"A stranger offered to buy them," Klein says. "I was happy just to get back the face value—twelve dollars each. As he paid me, I heard his wife say, unhappily, 'You paid forty-eight dollars for tickets to *this* game?' If he'd kept the tickets, they'd now be worth about a thousand dollars apiece in the collectors' market."

Larry Felser still remembers where he was seated when the AFL's Jets stunned the NFL's Colts—immediately next to the box occupied by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and team owners George Halas of Chicago and Art Modell of Cleveland.

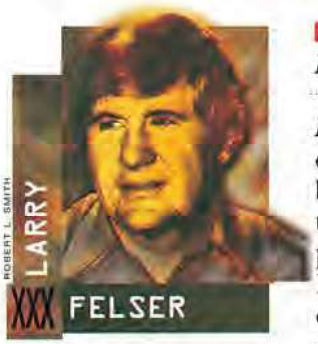
"When it began to look as if the Jets were going to win, Halas and Modell looked sick," Felser says, "like they were ready to donate themselves to the Smithsonian. They were all sweating, except Rozelle. He was enjoying the hell out of the game. He seemed to understand that the Jets' win was good for the National Football League."

Miller, Klein, and Felser are especially well equipped to spin tales of Super Bowls past. They belong to a rare fraternity of sportswriters—10 members worldwide—who have attended each of the first 30 games.

They have chronicled football history in the game's premier event since Lyndon Johnson was President, and they have assembled a storehouse of memories.

Each member of the Super 30 Club was asked to look across the years and answer some questions: What was his most lasting Super Bowl memory? Who was his favorite player? And what was the most unforgettable play he had witnessed?

Here are their answers:



LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

Lasting Memory—Tex Maule of *Sports Illustrated* was the best-known football writer in the country when the Jets played Baltimore in Super Bowl III, and he was an NFL die-hard. He continually put down the AFL, and nearly everyone in the AFL despised him.

As I'm making my way out of the locker room after the Jets beat the Colts, Gerry Philbin, the Jets' big defensive end, tugs at my coat. He says, "Where's Tex Maule? He's the one I'm waiting for." Well, Tex never went to the Jets' dressing room.

The media had been given these box lunches at halftime, in a lunch pail decorated in psychedelic colors, and my wife had told me to bring her one. When I got back to the hotel, we met in the lobby and rode the elevator together. She said, "Did you remember the lunch box?"

I said, "Yeah, they served this incredible lunch."

From the back of the elevator came a voice: "I was too sick to eat mine." It was Tex Maule.

Favorite Player—I appreciated the play of Bob Kuechenberg, an offensive lineman for the Dolphins. In Super Bowl VIII, when Miami beat the Vikings, Larry Csonka was the most valuable player, but he gained a lot of his yardage through holes where he didn't meet any opposition for the first three yards. Kuechenberg controlled Alan Page, and that was the key to the whole game.

Kooch was what a great football player should be: unselfish and team oriented. He was the ultimate team guy, and in that game, as Don Shula later confirmed, he was the best player on the field.

Unforgettable Play—In Super Bowl III, Jim Hudson intercepted an Earl Morrall pass while Jimmy Orr, a Colts' receiver, was open and waving his arms in the end zone. That turned the game around. If Morrall had seen Orr, it would have been a different game. The Colts became despondent after that play.

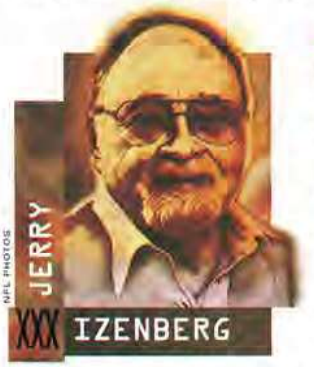
JERRY GREEN

DETROIT NEWS

Lasting Memory—It was at Joe Robbie Stadium, when Joe Montana took the 49ers on that long drive against Cincinnati to the winning touchdown against the clock in Super Bowl XXIII. That's the essence of pro football, but you rarely see that kind of performance in any game, much less the Super Bowl. But Montana did it under the greatest pressure imaginable.

Favorite Player—I admired the Packers' Bart Starr because he was the extension of Vince Lombardi on the field. He was close to being the perfect quarterback. He was not a colorful character, just very efficient. He represents what a lot of us remember and admire about players before they became such outlandish showmen. He was austere. He was reserved. And he was a champion.

Unforgettable Play—I saw Garo Yepremian, when he was an immigrant from Cyprus, in a tryout with the Detroit Lions, and I saw all the things he had to learn about pro football. When the Lions cut him, he was signed by the Dolphins. And then I saw him try to throw a forward pass off a blocked field goal in Super Bowl VII. It was very amusing. That play will stick in my mind forever.



JERRY IZENBERG

NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

Lasting Memory—It was apparent fairly early in Super Bowl II that there was no way Oakland was going to beat Green Bay. What I focused on—and I don't know why—was the battle between Tom Keating, a defensive tackle for

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Oakland, and Gale Gillingham, a guard for Green Bay.

It was the greatest Super Bowl battle nobody ever saw. Keating had an injured Achilles tendon, and his ankle was swollen to the size of a softball. Gillingham had hurt his arm before the game. Play after play, Gillingham would come up from his position and go straight for Keating, the blood streaming down an elbow-sized bandage. Keating, who clearly was playing in pain, would go off the field limping when each possession ended. It went on from the first sequence until the last, and I thought to myself: These guys each played his own Super Bowl, and the score had nothing to do with it.

Favorite Player—I'll never forget Dave Herman, a Jets lineman in Super Bowl III who was matched up against Colts great Bubba Smith. The Baltimore battle cry back then was "Kill, Bubba, Kill!" When Herman (6-1, 255 pounds) stood next to Bubba Smith (6-7, 295), it looked like father-and-son day at the Elks Picnic. All week long, Herman's wife kept saying, "I don't want you to get hurt, I don't want you to get injured."

Well, Herman dominated Bubba Smith, and afterward he said, "After spending five days in a hotel room with a petrified wife, I would have played against King Kong just to get out of that room."

Unforgettable Play—If you figure the wind velocity, the distance, and what was at stake, the play I remember most is the missed field goal on the last play of Super Bowl XXV. It's memorable because it showed just how fragile the outcome of a game can be. That last play between the Bills and the Giants, with all the players watching on the sideline, squeezed the last drop of emotion out of every player in the game.

DAVE KLEIN

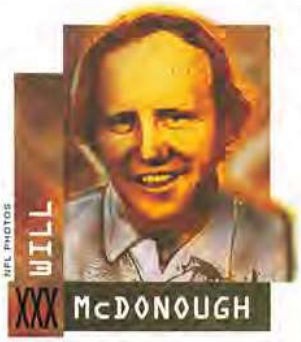
NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

Lasting Memory—The Jets winning Super Bowl III was most memorable because it was most unexpected. No one really believed they had a chance. People generally were unaware that in the preceding week in Miami the AFL owners had had a semisecret meeting and decided that when the Colts blew away the Jets, the owners were going to suspend the Super Bowl until they felt their league could compete.

During the week, Joe Namath appeared at the Miami Touchdown Club and "guaranteed" victory with a glass of scotch in his hand. Harold Rosenthal, who was working for the AFL at the time, came back to the hotel and said he couldn't believe what a fool Namath had made of himself. Then he paused and added, "But he sounded so convincing."

Favorite Player—My favorite player was Joe Montana. He went game after game doing the things that had to be done to win. When he was drafted, he was almost forced on Bill Walsh. In 1979, Walsh wanted Phil Simms and was stunned when the Giants drafted him so high. Walsh then tried to trade up to get Steve Fuller from Clemson, but Kansas City beat him to that. Finally, he drafted Montana in the third round, and when Montana got to camp, Walsh saw what he had—a guy with a quick release, courage, guts, and a moderately strong but incredibly accurate arm. He molded the offense around him.

Unforgettable Play—It's so obscure that I bet nobody else remembers it. In Super Bowl XII, when Dallas played Denver, a Cowboys' wide receiver named Butch Johnson caught a touchdown pass in which he left the ground and flew in a straight line about five yards with his body parallel to the ground. He came down at the exact same second as the ball hit his fingertips, and he managed to hold on to it. It was as athletic and acrobatic a play as I've ever seen.



WILL McDONOUGH

BOSTON GLOBE

Lasting Memory—It has to be Super Bowl III, when the Jets upset Baltimore. As someone who started as an AFL writer in 1960, I thought the league had been abused, but none of us really thought the Jets could win. But I remember walking with the late Jimmy Cannon, one of the great sportswriters in America, along Miami Beach the day before the game. He said, "You know, I think the Jets have a chance." I asked him why, and he said, "I went out with my friend Vince Lombardi, and he said he thought the Jets could beat these guys."

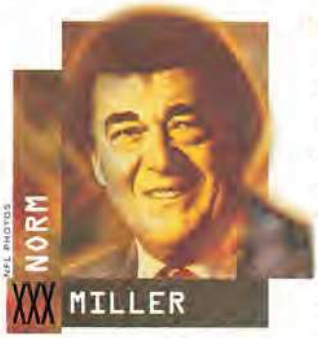
Strange as it seemed, the Jets were the ones who seemed cocky about the game.

Favorite Player—I liked to watch Joe Montana play. He always rose to another level when he got to the Super Bowl, and he never played a bad game. He was terrific under the greatest amount of pressure.

"Joe Namath 'guaranteed' victory [in Super Bowl III] and Harold Rosenthal said he couldn't believe what a fool Namath had made of himself. Then he paused and added, 'But he sounded so convincing.'"

–Dave Klein

Unforgettable Play—In Super Bowl XVII, Joe Theismann was passing from near his own end zone, and Miami was ahead. The ball was deflected up in the air, and Kim Bokamper, the right defensive end for the Dolphins, was about to catch it for an interception and a touchdown. Theismann came racing across like a basketball player blocking a shot, leaped, and knocked the ball away from Bokamper. If Bokamper had caught that one, Miami probably would have won the game.



NORM MILLER

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, NEW YORK POST

Lasting Memory—After 30 years, the strongest impression I'm left with is the difference between the first Super Bowl and the thirtieth. At the first game, we didn't have anywhere near the media crush we have today, and nobody ever figured the game would get as popular as it has. For the first Super Bowl, the Packers trained in Santa Barbara and the Chiefs trained in Long Beach. When we boarded the bus for the two-hour drive to Santa Barbara, it wasn't even full. There were 25 to 35 writers at most. We got to the Packers' hotel for lunch, and when we sat down at a long table, Vince Lombardi joined us and answered questions.

The mood was really casual. There was nothing controversial said. For interviews, we'd catch the players in their rooms or maybe sitting around the swimming pool. Frankly, I don't know when in the hell they practiced.

Favorite Player—Fran Tarkenton was my favorite player because he was so accommodating to the media. He was such a great source of stories and a great talker. After a while, too, you started feeling kind of sympathetic toward him because he kept going back to the game—he played in three Super Bowls—and he kept getting beat.

Unforgettable Play—I still can see Marcus Allen's run against Washington in Super Bowl XVIII. He took a handoff at scrimmage, started one way, reversed fields, and turned completely around. It was a huge run (74 yards) for a touchdown. It was a work of sheer art and great, brainy running.

"After 30 years, the strongest impression I'm left with is the difference between the first Super Bowl and the thirtieth."

–Norm Miller

BOB OATES

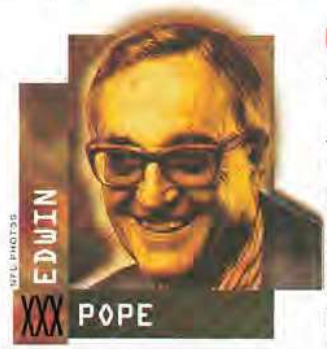
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Lasting Memory—I'll never forget Super Bowl XIV, when Rams defensive end Jack Youngblood became the first player to play in a Super Bowl with a broken bone in his leg. Of all the plays and players I've seen in Super Bowls, the image that comes to me first is Youngblood chasing after Terry Bradshaw on a broken leg. He'd broken the fibula earlier in the month, but he kept playing anyway. There was never any doubt that he'd suit up.

It really wasn't a very good Rams team—they'd finished 9-7 in the regular season—and their opponents, the Steelers, were one of the greatest teams of all time. But this rather ordinary Rams team was so inspired watching Youngblood ignore his broken leg that they actually led the Steelers through most of the game.

Favorite Player—The most important player in Super Bowl history was Joe Namath. I also think he was the best passer the game ever has had, but in Super Bowl III it was his leadership on the field that won the game. Up until then, everyone always said the NFL was the better league. The guy who changed all that was Namath.

Unforgettable Play—The one I think of first is Joe Montana's pass to John Taylor to win Super Bowl XXIII. With a half-minute left, the 49ers were losing that game 16-13. Montana had to make every pass good, and after coming almost the length of the field in 10 plays, everything came down to that one pass. It's the only drive against the clock to win the game in the history of the Super Bowl. The interesting thing about the play is that Taylor was Montana's second option. His first option was running back Roger Craig, but Cincinnati had him covered, which meant that there was only one guy on Taylor. The question was whether Montana could find Taylor in time. He did.



EDWIN POPE

MIAMI HERALD

Lasting Memory—The most vivid memory I have is of the first Super Bowl and the way the Packers just left the Chiefs for dead. Afterward, Lombardi, who'd been putting everybody off all week on questions about which was the better league, said, "There's no question in my mind...There's no comparison between the NFL and the AFL."

Unlike some other people, I always thought the Super Bowl was going to be a great thing. You could see it was the start of something big. A lot of us thought it was going to be just like the World Series. It turned out to be much bigger.

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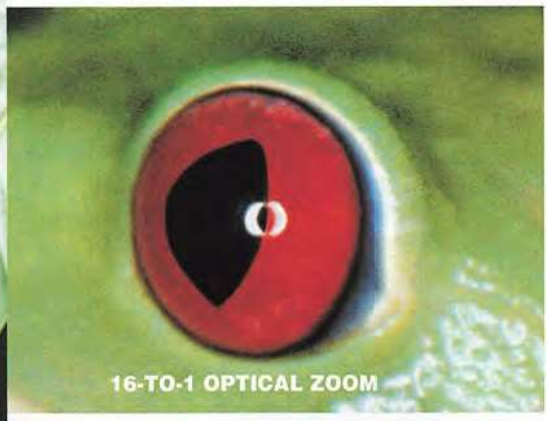

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Favorite Player—Larry Csonka of the Dolphins was my favorite player. He was a great warrior. He would play hurt. He would knock people down. He's the only running back I've ever seen called for unnecessary roughness for knocking a tackler out of the way with his forearm. He just lifted the guy off his feet. He was a great competitor and a terrific guy.

Unforgettable Play—It's too bad you have to remember a play like this, but the one I can't forget is Bob Lilly throwing Bob Griese for that huge (29-yard) loss in Super Bowl VI. Griese spoke recently at a luncheon for Don Shula and referred to this as the biggest quarterback sack in Super Bowl history. Then he turned toward Shula and said, "You called that play."

If you were a Dolphins' fan, that play really demonstrated the terrific superiority the Cowboys had over the Dolphins in that game. That play was the personification of the margin (24-3) in the game.

COOPER ROLLOW
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lasting Memory—I remember the Dallas Cowboys' dressing room after their loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XIII. Jackie Smith was in the corner of the room, explaining to reporters why he had dropped Roger Staubach's third-quarter pass in the end zone. If he'd caught it, it would have tied the score. I was among those asking what had happened, while Jackie's 10-year-old son stood by his locker, holding back tears. I remember Jackie saying, "I was trying to be overcautious, that's why I dropped it." It was a short interview. No alibis. No biting remarks. No self-serving apologies. Jackie handled it with class and dignity. The memory of that scene has stayed with me.

Favorite Player—Johnny Unitas was my favorite quarterback. He had some unique qualities about him that went beyond his high-topped shoes and his great throwing arm. I liked the fact that he refused to take himself as seriously as a lot of other players. He loved to tell stories.

In the week before Super Bowl V in Miami, I knocked on the door of his motel room. This was back before players' room numbers were top secret. The first words out of his mouth were about his most recent golf outing. He said Florida had the swankiest golf courses in the world, but they were full of snakes. He'd used his nine-iron to put two of them out of commission.

Unforgettable Play—With 12 seconds to go before halftime in Super Bowl XVIII, the Washington Redskins were backed up on their own 12 when they tried a screen pass. They had three receivers on the right side and running back Joe Joe Washington on the left. Quarterback Joe Theismann tossed a screen pass over Lyle Alzado in the direction of Joe Washington when Jack Squirek, a reserve linebacker, picked off the pass and galloped 5 yards into the end zone. That gave the Raiders a 21-3 lead, and for all practical purposes, the game.

"The most exciting player of them all was Roger Staubach. I'd buy a ticket to watch him any time...He scrambled. He could throw deep or short. I thought he was a great show."

–John Steadman

JOHN STEADMAN
BALTIMORE SUN

Lasting Memory—I'll never forget seeing Arthur Rooney in the locker room after the Steelers won their first Super Bowl (IX). This fine, humble man, who had waited so long for a championship, finally was rewarded for his patient dignity. I'll never forget him saying, "You know, for forty years, they've been writing and saying how dumb I am. Now, they'll probably say how smart I am. But I'm really no different now than I was then."

He went on to say what a great moment it was, and I could see how emotionally moved he was by what that meant. Little did he think it was the beginning of the Steelers' domination of the Super Bowl.

Favorite Player—The most exciting player of them all was Roger Staubach. I'd buy a ticket to watch him any time. He kept within the game plan, but at the same time he could improvise. He took hits. He scrambled. He could throw deep or short. I thought he was a great show.

Unforgettable Play—The one play—and the subsequent events—that I'll never forget came in the Dallas game against Pittsburgh (XIII) when Jackie Smith dropped a pass in the end zone. For a fellow who'd had the Hall of Fame career that Smith did, he deserved a better fate than that.

Afterward, in the locker room, his young son was sitting beside him. And his son heard this irrepressible interrogation of his father. Did you choke? How could you drop the ball? The questions weren't kind, but Jackie never once said, "Did you ever play the game?" He was kind and patient and tolerant of a lot of stupid sportswriters asking stupid questions. The way he carried himself in that moment is tucked away in my memory book for all time. ⚜

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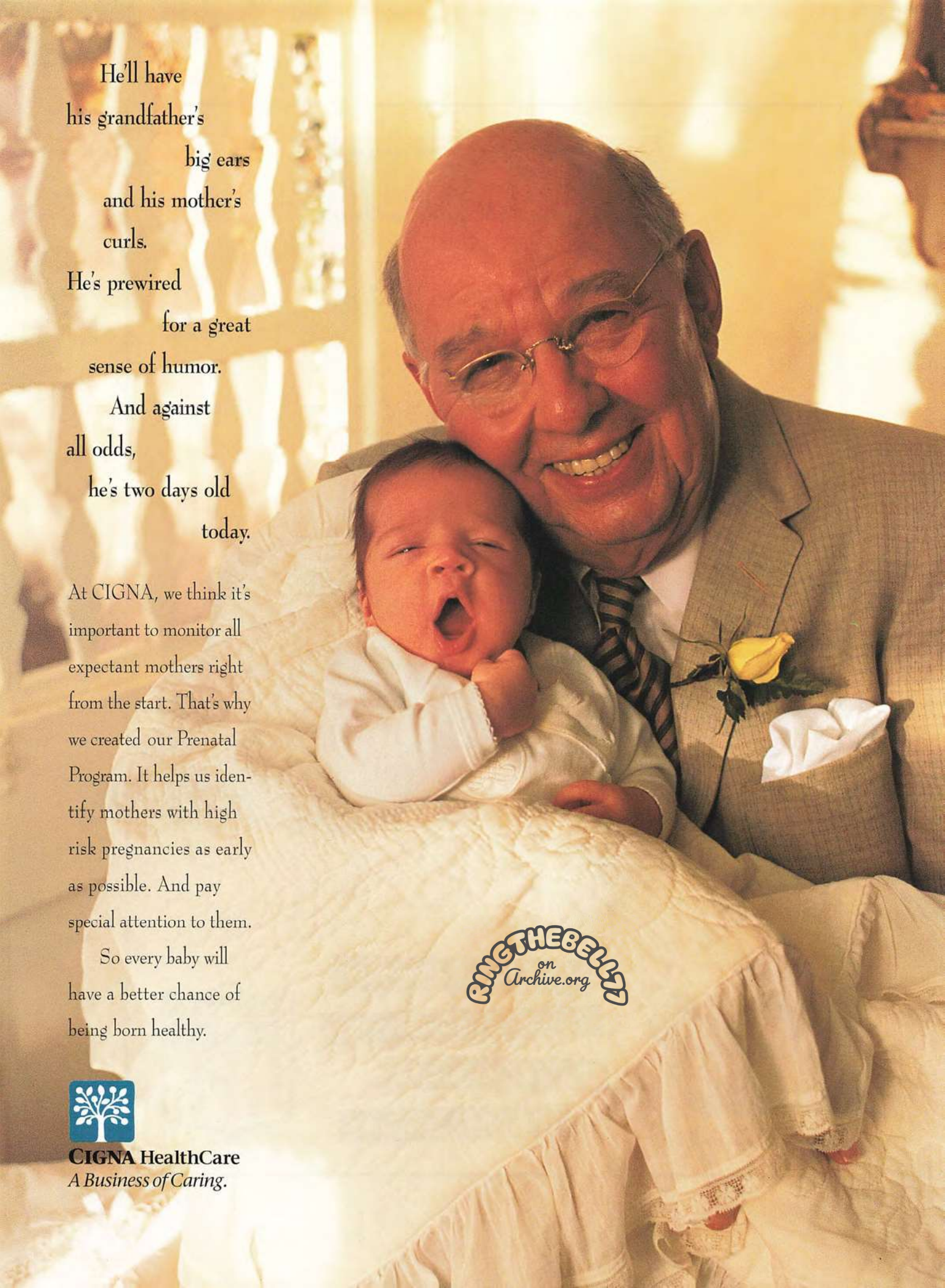
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He Is What He Writes

How to turn a casual fan into a real football authority

The Super Bowl is the single biggest sporting event in the United States, and it always attracts a great many people who don't follow the game closely during the regular season. These are the same people who don't follow baseball but sit in box seats at the World Series.

To make the game more enjoyable for these part-time fans, I'd like to provide them with some phrases to use at Super Bowl parties and at the game itself. Dropping some of these phrases casually into their conversations will make them seem less like intruders.

I've enlisted the help of one of our premier football announcers, Boom Boom Madigan. No one is more familiar with familiar phrases than Boom Boom, and we're pleased that he has agreed to this interview.

Rooney: Boom Boom, who do you think will win this Super Bowl?

MADIGAN: This game could go either way. On any given day in this league any team can beat any other team. Both clubs will be up for this game. These two outfits don't like each other. It depends on who gets the job done. Past performances don't mean anything when these two rivals meet.

Rooney: You announcers are experts at this. Could you tell newcomers to the game how they might impress the person they're sitting next to in the stadium?

MADIGAN: Sure. I could help with that. For instance, they could pick any lineman and say, "He's one of the most underrated linemen in the game." This suggests they see something the other person doesn't see. Or they could say, "They isolated the wide receiver on the linebacker, and there isn't a linebacker in the game of football who can stay with a wide receiver."

Rooney: An NFL team plays 16 regular-season games and then there are playoffs. How many games do they take at a time?

MADIGAN: They take them one game at a time. Each week is a whole new ball game.

Rooney: When a running back gets four or five yards on a first down early in the game, how long is he going to be able to keep that up?

MADIGAN: He'll do that to you all day long.

Rooney: What does a good running game do for a team?

MADIGAN: The running game opens up the passing game.

Rooney: And when a quarterback throws a pass in the area defended by a rookie cornerback?

MADIGAN: He'll be picking on that rookie cornerback all day long.

Rooney: What about a strong safety? What does a good one do?

MADIGAN: He puts big hits on people.

Rooney: Does a wide receiver know that after he catches the ball, he's going to be tackled right away?

MADIGAN: Yes. He hears footsteps. That's why sometimes he starts to run before he catches the football. He's got to look the ball into his hands. If he loses his concentration, he drops the ball.

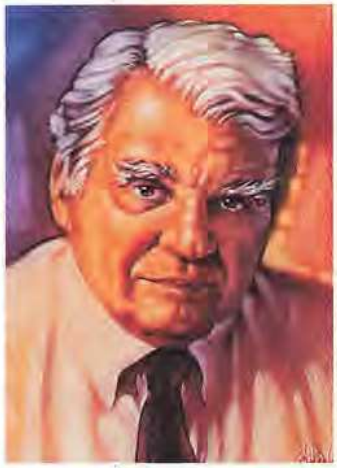

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HANLEY

Rooney: What kind of shape is their fullback, Leadhead White, in after he broke his leg in two places this week in practice?

MADIGAN: He was shaken up. But he's in the best shape of his career. He's been running on it in practice and it's beginning to loosen up. It's a day-to-day thing. The coach won't make up his mind whether to start him until kickoff time. You can't keep him off the field. He came to play.

Rooney: What could a fan say to the people sitting around him if one team scores three touchdowns before halftime?

MADIGAN: Just say, "They're dominating this football game." In the booth we always call it "this football game" so that fans watching at home won't think it's hockey or basketball.

Rooney: What can someone say about field goals?

MADIGAN: Say the kicker split the uprights. He's 23 for 30 at this range. Sometimes you can say, "They had to settle for a

field goal. Their offense hasn't had much success this year in the red zone. They haven't been able to stick it in the end zone."

Rooney: What if someone asks why it is so difficult for them to score a touchdown when they're so close?

MADIGAN: Maybe it's because the receiver didn't read the blitz...or the tight end missed his block. It could be that the quarterback is having trouble reading the secondary's zone defense. Point out that the pocket is collapsing on the quarterback.

Rooney: What do you say when an offensive player moves before the ball is snapped?

MADIGAN: We call that a false start. There was movement in the line. The linemen aren't used to the cadence of the new quarterback. The kid hasn't had the reps in practice.

Rooney: Sometimes when one team gets way ahead, fans lose interest. What could a person trying to sound knowledgeable say to the people he's sitting with under these circumstances?

MADIGAN: I know what we say in the broadcast booth. We say, "This game is far from over."

Rooney: What if the score is 47-3 with 1:10 left to play?

MADIGAN: I'd advise a fan to say "A lot can happen in a minute and ten seconds." We don't say so, but one thing that can happen is four commercials.

Rooney: What does a fan say to the people he's sitting with when there's a long break in the action on the field?

MADIGAN: He looks at them as though he's the only one who knows it and says, "Commercial!"

Rooney: Is there a good remark to make when the officials call a penalty?

MADIGAN: Yes, we announcers always say, "Flags are flying," or "There are flags down all over the field." We also could say, "Penalties are killing this team."

Rooney: One team has to lose this Super Bowl game, Boom Boom. What's it going to be like for the losers?

MADIGAN: It'll be a long plane ride home. They'll have a year to think about what went wrong. Nobody remembers who came in second in the Super Bowl.

Rooney: Thanks for talking with us Boom Boom. By the way, will fans here at the game be able to tape your broadcast and then show it to friends with their own comments?

MADIGAN: This game is broadcast for the exclusive use of this network. Any replay without the express written permission of both teams and the National Football League is strictly prohibited. ⚜

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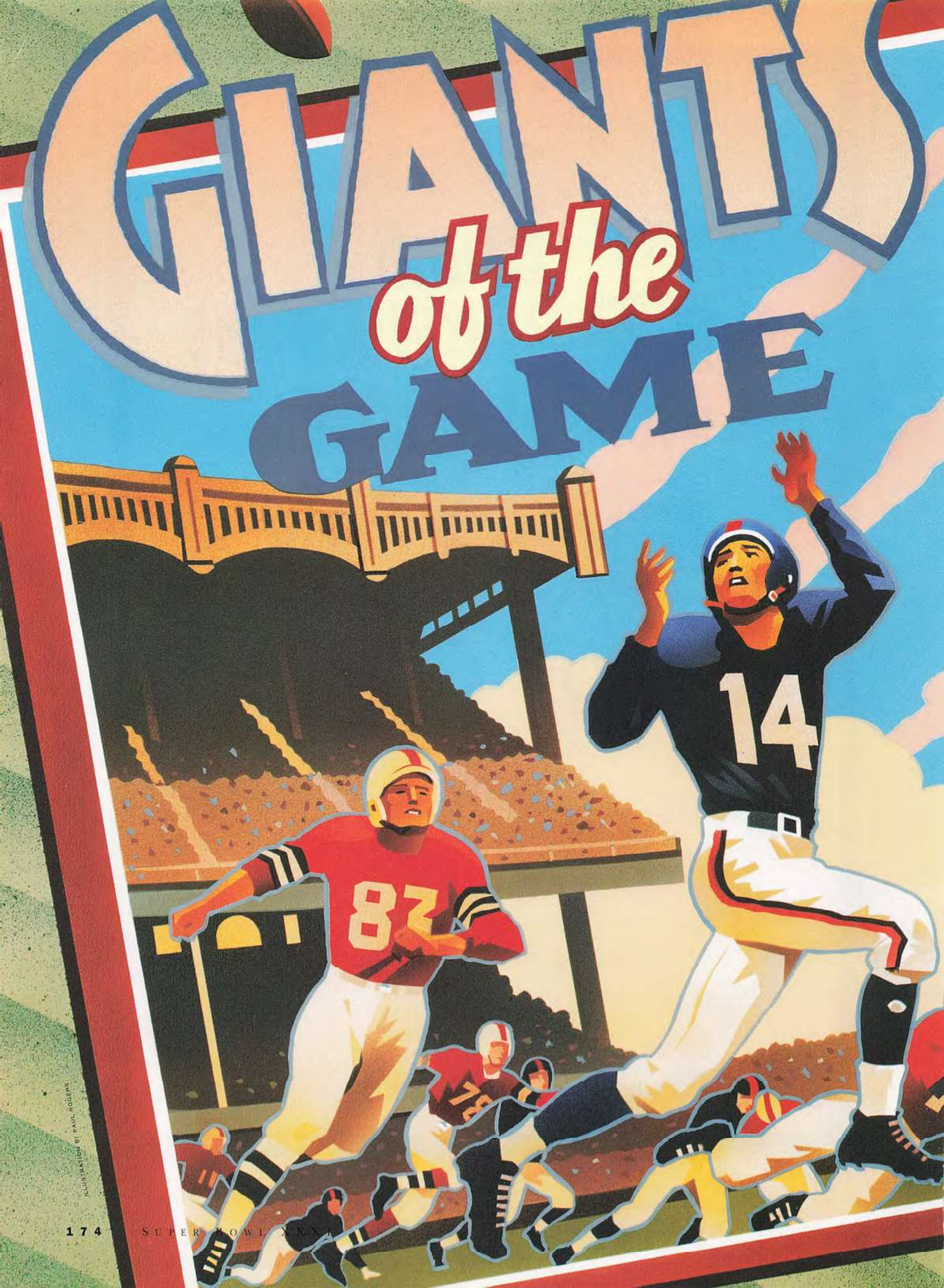

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'56

New York's Fabled 1956 Champions Wrote a Special Chapter in NFL History

By Ray Didinger

The old gang was gathered in a private dining room at the Regency Hotel in Manhattan. Sam Huff was there, bragging about the defense. Frank Gifford was needling Rosey Grier about his guitar playing. And Cliff Livingston was trying to explain how he once boarded a team charter clad only in swim trunks.

"It's a long story," Livingston says.

"It must be," Harland Svare says, interrupting. "It's been forty years and you're still telling it."

"This is like old times," Alex Webster says, surveying the room, crowded with players and families of the 1956 New York Giants celebrating the fortieth anniversary of their National Football League championship season. "You see the emotion in this room, the closeness of the guys, you see why we won."

"That was the most fun I had in football, coaching that defense," says Tom Landry, who was in his first season as defensive coordinator in 1956. He went to Dallas as head coach in 1960 and led the Cowboys to five Super Bowls. "We [the Giants] played as a team. We played the game the way it should be played, not the way it's played today."

"Our team had a distinctive personality. We won, really, with our defense. We were the first team that had the fans chanting, 'Dee-fense.'"

– Andy Robustelli

The Giants of that era, the late '50s to early '60s, were one of the most influential teams in pro football history. They appeared in six NFL championship games in eight years, and, while they won the world title only in 1956, they brought a dynamic personality to the city where it mattered the most.

New York was the media capital of the world in the 1950s, when the television boom was beginning. The Giants put pro football in the middle of it all. Gifford, the handsome halfback, was signed to do cologne ads. Quarterback Charlie Conerly became the first Marlboro Man. Huff, the middle linebacker, was profiled in a CBS-TV documentary, *The Violent World of Sam Huff*, hosted by Walter Cronkite.

"That show might have done more to sell pro football than anything else," said Huff, one of seven players and coaches from the 1956 Giants who are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "That was the first time a player ever wore a microphone during a game, so it was the first time people got to hear what really goes on out there. The hitting, the grunting, the cussing.

"You see that stuff all the time now with NFL Films, but forty years ago, that was like a whole new world. There was one scene where I shouted at this Chicago player. I said, 'Hey, number eighty-eight. Don't hit me under the chin like that. You do that again and I'm gonna pop you.' To this day, people ask me: 'Whatever happened between you and eighty-eight?'

"When people still remember something like that, after all these years, you know it really had an impact."

"I've often thought we were the right team in the right place at the right time," said Andy Robustelli, the great defensive end who served as the team's co-captain along with center Ray Wietecha. "Television was in its infancy. The whole [TV] industry was based here. National magazines like *Life* and *Time* were published here. And we got those people—a lot of them, anyway—hooked on pro football.

"Our team had a distinctive personality. We won, really, with our defense. We were the first team that had the fans chanting, 'Dee-fense.' The media picked up on that. *Time* put Sam on the cover. *Life* put all three linebackers [Huff, Livingston, and Svare] on the cover. People who hadn't paid much attention to pro football read about this violent game and decided to watch."

When the public tuned in, the Giants did not disappoint. In 1956, the team finished the regular season with an 8-3-1 record and embarrassed the Chicago Bears 47-7 in the World Championship Game on a frozen field at Yankee Stadium. Giants head coach Jim Lee Howell called it, "The closet thing to a perfect game I've ever seen."

Gifford was named NFL player of the year after rushing for 819 yards and a 5.2-yard average per carry. Huff, who was converted from guard to linebacker by Landry at training camp, was voted rookie of the year. Three defensive starters—end Robustelli, tackle Grier, and safety Emlen Tunnell—were selected all-pro.

"The amazing thing about that championship game is it wasn't sold out," Gifford says, noting the attendance (56,836) was several thousand short of capacity. "Every Giants home game since then has been a sellout. That game turned it all around.

"I joined the team in 1952, and we played some games in front of 9,000 people. Nobody cared. The Yankees were the big story in town, with Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, and that bunch. But winning the championship in 1956 brought the focus. For the first time, there was a football focus in New York. Everything took off from there."

The Giants captured the imagination of the big city. So much so that a 10-year-old in the Bronx named Lew Alcindor requested the number 33 for his grammar school basketball uniform. That was the number worn by his favorite Giants player, halfback Mel Triplett.

Alcindor later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, but he never changed his number. He made the number 33 famous in three All-America seasons at UCLA and 20 seasons in the National Basketball Association. But all those years, the NBA's leading scorer was really just a Mel Triplett-wannabe.

"Mel is the only man I ever saw make Vince Lombardi back down," Gifford says. "We were in a meeting one day and Vince [then a Giants assistant coach] was showing the film of the previous game. He got to this play where Mel, for one of the few times in his career, missed a block.

"Vince ran the play over and over, saying: 'Look at this. You call that a block?' Mel hardly ever said a word, but finally, he had enough. He said, in that low voice of his: 'Don't run that play no more.' The room went silent. No one had ever spoken like that to Vince. We all waited to see what would happen.

"Vince didn't say a thing. He moved on to the next play. That's how tough Mel Triplett was. Nobody messed with him, not even Lombardi."

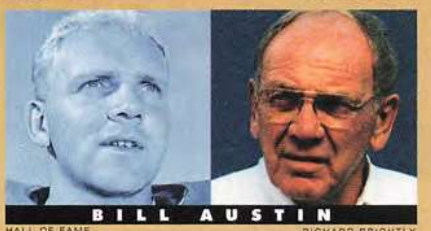
Early in the 1996 season, on a warm September weekend, two dozen players and coaches from that Giants team were reunited in New

1956 NEW YORK GIANTS

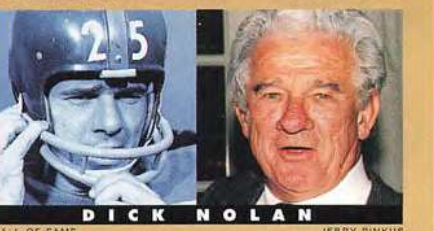
BEN AGAJANIAN
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

SAM HUFF
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

DICK MODZELEWSKI
HENRY BARR STUDIOS — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


BILL AUSTIN
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

ED HUGHES
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY



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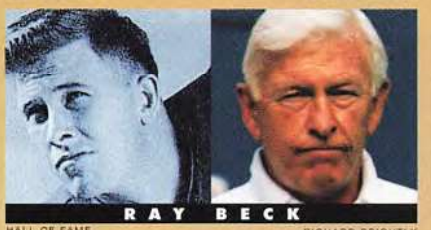
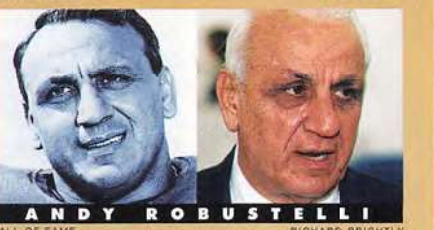
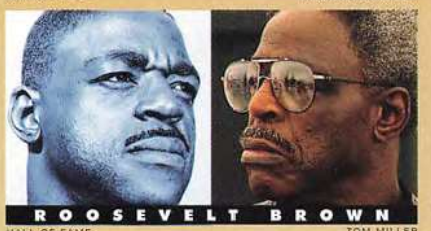
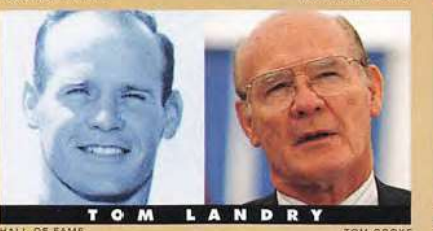
HALL OF FAME — JERRY PINKUS


RAY BECK
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

GERALD HUTH
LAUGHEAD PHOTO — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


ANDY ROBUSTELLI
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


ROOSEVELT BROWN
HALL OF FAME — TOM MILLER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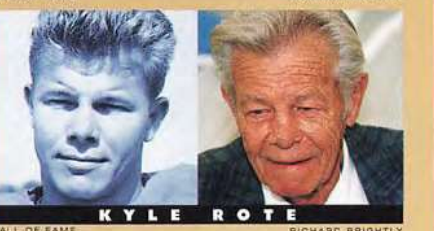
HALL OF FAME — TOM CROKE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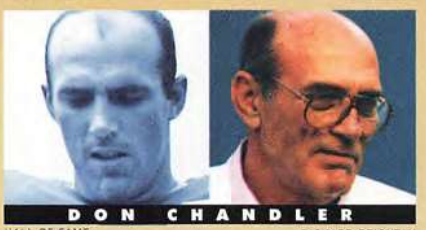
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY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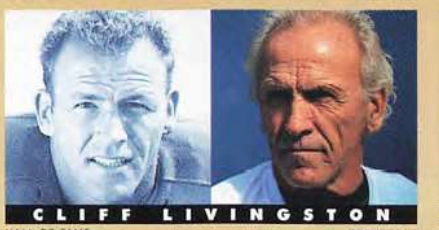
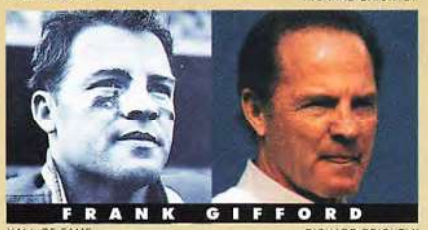
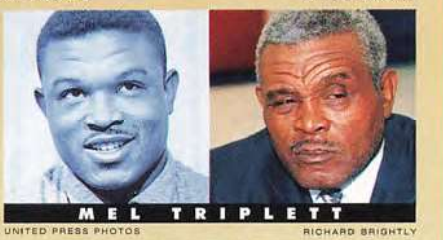
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


CLIFF LIVINGSTON
HALL OF FAME — TOM CROKE

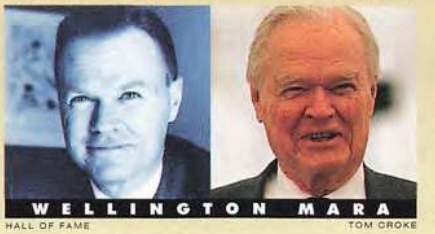
HARLAND SVARE
CAL PICTURES — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

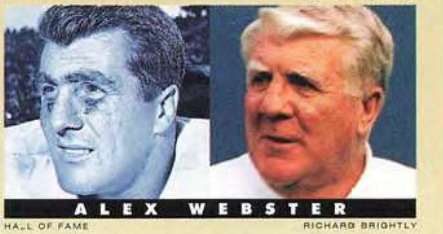

FRANK GIFFORD
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

KEN MACAFEE
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


MEL TRIPLETT
UNITED PRESS PHOTOS — RICHARD BRIGHTLY

ROOSEVELT GRIER
HALL OF FAME — RICHARD BRIGHTLY


WELLINGTON MARA
HALL OF FAME — TOM CROKE


ALEX WEBSTER
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York City. They had a dinner party Saturday night, brunch at Giants Stadium Sunday morning, then—dressed in white jerseys with their old numbers—they were introduced on the field at halftime of the Giants-Minnesota game.

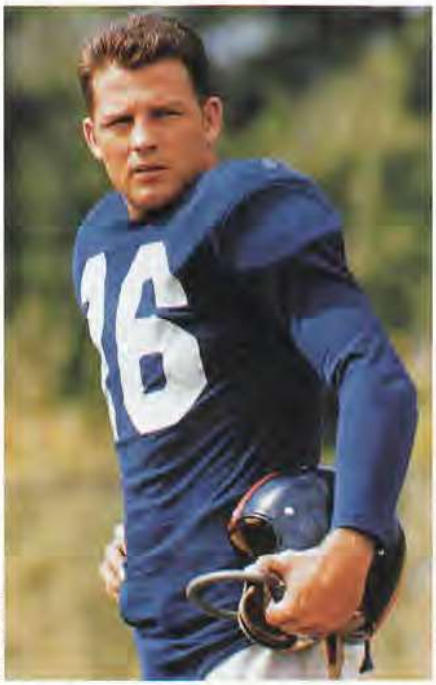
Highlights of the 1956 championship game were shown on the scoreboard. Fans who weren't even born in 1956 cheered as, on the big screen, Triplett ran over three Bears, one of his own blockers (Jack Stroud), and an official (umpire Mike Wilson) to score the game's first touchdown. The cheering continued as, one by one, the black-and-white images of Conerly, Gifford, and Kyle Rote appeared.

During the introductions, the loudest cheers were reserved for the Hall of Fame members: Gifford, Huff, Robustelli, Landry, and tackle Roosevelt Brown. Tunnell and Lombardi, an assistant coach with the Giants from 1954 through '58, are the other Hall of Fame members from that team. Tunnell and Lombardi are deceased, as are former standouts Conerly, linebacker Bill Svoboda, end Jim Katcavage, and safety Jimmy Patton.

When Katcavage died in 1994, the services were held near his home in suburban Philadelphia. Almost every living member of the 1956 championship team, including club president Wellington Mara, attended. Huff drove from Washington. Grier and Livingston flew in from California. Gifford and Robustelli led a group from New York. Huff called it "a death in the family," and, indeed, that was how it seemed. Such was the bond among the Giants of that era.

"I don't think you'll ever see that kind of closeness with [an NFL] team again," Huff says. "Today, with free agency, players change teams every year. They don't develop the same kind of feeling. Money changed everything. Now [players] play for themselves. They finish practice and, zoom, they're gone, scattered in a million directions.

"With our team, most of the players lived in the Grand Concourse Hotel, which was right near Yankee Stadium. We hung out together ...rookies, veterans, married guys, single guys, everybody. We were like brothers. Heck, we were closer than brothers. Most brothers I know get into fights. We never did.



ROBERT RIGER

Yesteryear: *Frank Gifford, a versatile halfback, was one of the stars of the Giants' 1956 championship team.*

"The closeness, the unselfishness of that group was unbelievable," Huff says. "It's still there. When we were at the [reunion] dinner and I looked around the room, I could feel the presence of Charlie, Kat, Jimmy Patton, and those guys. It's like they're still here. To me, I think, they always will be."

The mood in the Regency Hotel dining room was similar to that of most reunions, a bittersweet mix of laughter and melancholy. Wellington Mara, the club's 80-year-old owner, was moved when he looked over the roomful of former players, most of them gray, most of them hobbling from the punishment they absorbed over the years.

"I scouted all you guys," says Mara, who made most of the football decisions in the 1950s. "I signed you. And I was dumb enough to trade some of you. But you didn't hold it against me. I thank you for that."

Mara told several stories about contract negotiations, poking fun at his penny-pincher image. He talked about Dick Modzelewski, the defensive tackle, mailing him a photo of a house he wanted to buy. According to Mara, Modzelewski included a note that said: "This is why I need more money this season."

Says Mara: "I sent Dick back a picture of my children [he has 11] with a note, saying: 'This is why you won't get it.'"

Mara told a story about negotiating a contract with Huff, who appeared in four Pro Bowls in his eight seasons with the Giants. Mara says he put a contract in front of Huff and the linebacker shoved it aside. "That's an insult, I'm not signing that," Huff said, heading for the door.

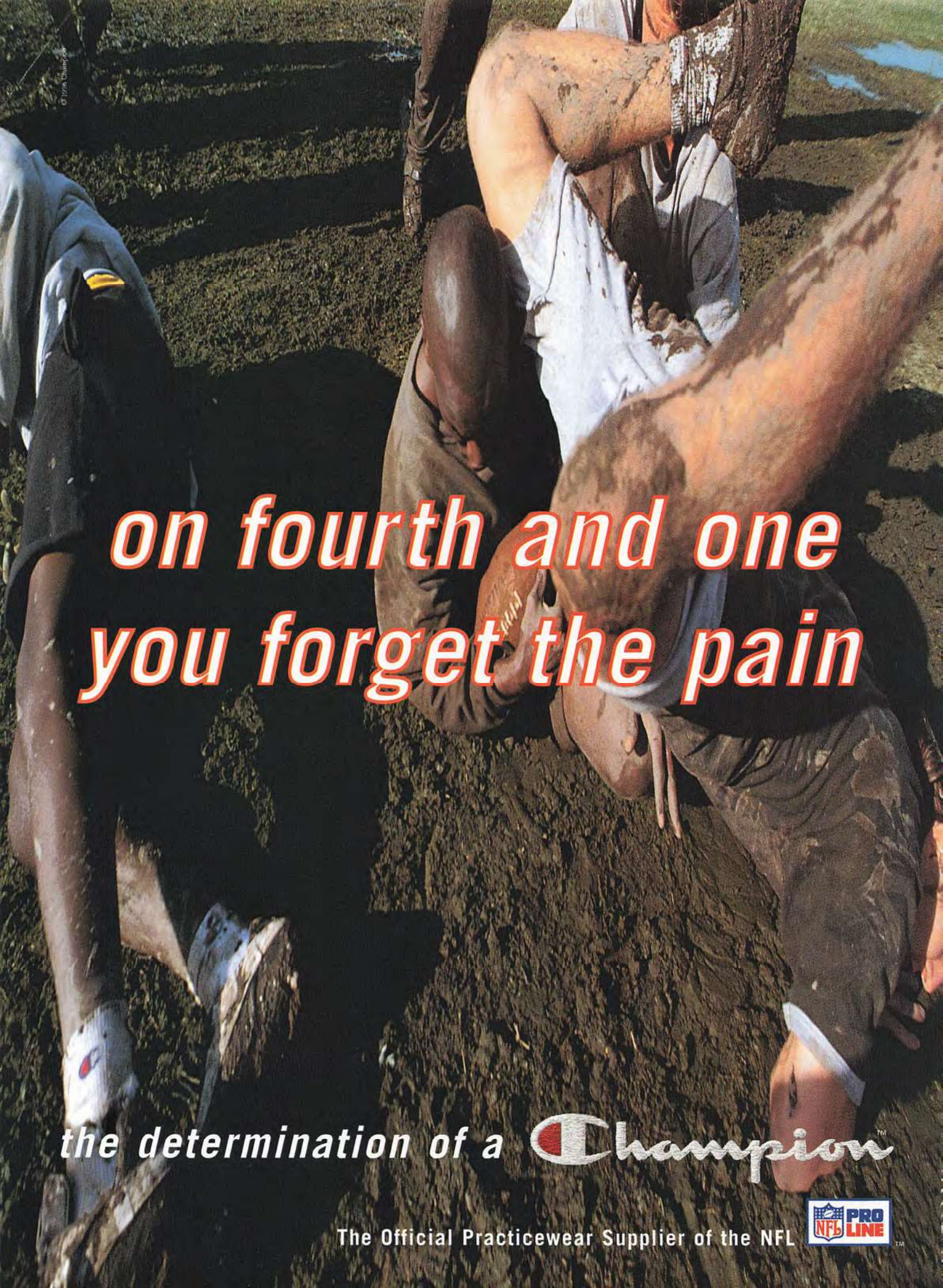
"I told him, 'Okay, Sam, I'll just trade you to Pittsburgh,'" Mara says. "Sam turned and said, 'Let me take another look at that contract.' We reached a quick agreement."

Gifford talked about signing with the Giants for a $250 bonus in 1952. He drew a laugh, saying: "I shudder to think what I would've been offered if I hadn't been a first-round draft pick." But when Gifford addressed Mara, who gave the presentation speech for Gifford's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1977, the former halfback's voice choked with emotion.

"To me, Wellington is not a father

"We were like brothers. Heck, we were closer than brothers. Most brothers I know get into fights. We never did."

—Sam Huff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or a brother, he's somewhere in the middle," Gifford says. "I love him. I'm sure I speak for everyone here when I say that."

"It really was a different atmosphere...looser, you had fun playing," says Huff, formerly an executive with the Marriott Hotel chain. "When we had kids, we'd bring 'em to practice on Saturdays. Our boys, naturally, wanted to play football. The Mara kids would be there, too, wanting to play. They'd be dressed up in white shirts and bow ties.

"I can remember Mo [Modzelewski] telling his son, 'Look, don't hit those kids too hard. And whatever you do, don't hurt them. I've gotta play here.'"

The 1956 Giants surprised by winning the league championship. The Cleveland Browns had dominated the Eastern Conference since joining the NFL in 1950 and were expected to do so in '56, despite the retirement of quarterback Otto Graham. The Giants had finished no higher than third in the conference the three previous seasons and appeared to be rebuilding.

Mara acquired Robustelli (from the Rams) and Modzelewski (from Pittsburgh) in trades. He added Katcavage in the 1956 college draft. Five rookies made the roster, with Huff and Katcavage earning spots on the starting defense. Grier, Patton, and halfback Alex Webster all were in their second pro seasons, basically unproven.

The Giants opened the season with only two players in their thirties—Conerly, 35, and Tunnell, 31. Later, the team added another—kicker Ben Agajanian, who was 37. Mara coaxed Agajanian out of retirement after Gifford missed several short kicks, including 2 extra points.

Mara offered Agajanian $4,500 to finish out the season. Agajanian, who had just started a sporting-goods business on the West Coast, said he would consider signing only if Mara allowed him to work all week in Calfornia and fly in Saturday for the games. Mara asked, "What about practice?"

"I don't need it," Agajanian replied.

Mara agreed to the deal, and Agajanian proved a valuable asset, making several clutch kicks, including 2 field goals (17 and 43 yards) on the icy turf in the title game.

"We didn't have the best talent in the league, but we were far and away the best coached team, and that's how we won," says Svare, who became a head coach with San Diego (1971-73). "We had Lombardi coaching the offense and Landry coaching the defense. Two of the greatest teachers the game has ever known, and we had 'em both.

TIME INC. MARVIN NEWMAN

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Offensive Arsenal: *Quarterback Charlie Conerly (top) and running backs Alex Webster (left) and Mel Triplett (right) all had a hand in the Giants' 47-7 trouncing of the Bears in the 1956 championship game.*

"I give Jim Lee [Howell, head coach] credit because he didn't let his ego get in the way. He let Vince and Tom do their thing. Winning was the bottom line. Jim Lee used to joke about it. He'd say, 'All I do around here is check curfew and pump up the footballs. Tom and Vince take care of the rest.'"

Lombardi ran a straightforward offense, much like the one he later installed in Green Bay, with the emphasis on power and execution rather than trickery. The Giants had excellent balance with Gifford, Triplett, and Webster sharing the ball-carrying duties. Brown, a massive man in that era at 6 feet 3 inches and 245 pounds, was a devastating blocker at tackle.

The Giants had a unique arrangement at quarterback. Don Heinrich would start each game, and Conerly, the cunning veteran, would watch from the sidelines. Heinrich served as a kind of advance scout, probing the defenses and looking for soft spots in the first two or three series. He would pass the information along to Conerly, who usually took over in the second quarter and finished the game.

Heinrich had no quarrel with the system, nor did Conerly, although it is hard to imagine any coaching staff selling that arrangement to the quarterbacks of today. In 1956, it worked well enough for the Giants to score 264 points in 12 regular-season games.

On defense, Landry was reinventing the pro game. Instead of the 5-2 front, which was employed by most teams at the time, Landry created the 4-3 by removing the nose tackle and replacing him with a middle linebacker. In Huff, a raw but willing 6-1, 230-pounder, Landry saw the future. Here was a player with size, strength, and the speed to make plays from sideline to sideline.

"I was looking for a way to slow down the Browns," Landry says. "They had so many weapons, with that passing game and [fullback] Marion Motley. I thought if I had someone in the middle, positioned in a way to defend against the pass and off the line so he could flow to the running plays, it would make us a lot more flexible.

"The hardest thing was finding a player with those skills. We drafted Sam that year as an offensive guard, but he really didn't fit there. We tried him at defensive tackle, but we already had Rosey and Mo there. The more I looked at Sam, how tough and tenacious he was, I thought maybe he'd make a good linebacker."

Huff got his chance when Ray Beck was injured and Svare proved better suited to the outside. The rookie from West Virginia tackled everything that moved. In the middle of a defense that included Ro-

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bustelli, Katcavage, Grier, and Tunnell, he was the perfect fit. With his *Time* cover and CBS documentary, Huff was the first defensive player to be accorded superstar status.

"Most people thought I was mean, some people thought I was dirty," Huff says. "I'll go along with the first part, not the second. Yeah, I was mean. If you're gonna play linebacker in the NFL, you'd better be mean. Look at Nitschke, Butkus, Lanier, Lambert, and myself. Same personalities.

"I wanted the other teams to know, 'Hey, you run the ball at me, you'll pay the price.' I wanted the fullback to say, 'Are you crazy? I'm not running that play. Huff darn near killed me the last time.' That's the fear element you want to create. If you don't create it, you'll never win a championship."

The 1956 championship game was reminiscent of the 1934 title game. The same teams, the Giants and Bears, met on the same kind of frozen surface. The only difference was the 1934 game was played in the Polo Grounds.

Even the outcome was the same. The Giants won both games handily, 30-13 in 1934 and 47-7 in 1956, wearing sneakers for better traction. Robustelli, who owned a sporting goods store in his native Connecticut, provided the footwear. He had four cases of new sneakers shipped to Yankee Stadium for the game.

"The Bears brought sneakers with them, but they were old and worn," Robustelli said. "They were sliding all over the place. Ours were new so they gave us a better grip. That made all the difference. Thank U.S Keds."

The Giants dominated the game from the opening kickoff, which rookie Gene Filipski returned 53 yards to the Chicago 17-yard line. From there, Triplett powered into the end zone for the first touchdown. The Bears turned the ball over on their first two possessions, and Agajanian converted those mistakes into field goals. The Giants led 13-0 after the first quarter.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

PLAYER	POS.	SINCE 1956...
Ben Agajanian	K	Former sporting goods store owner runs kicking camps
Bill Austin	G	Retired after 26 years as NFL coach (three with Giants)
Ray Beck	G	Retired owner of trucking company
Roosevelt Brown*	T	Member of Giants scouting staff
Don Chandler	HB	Real estate developer/former restaurateur
Bobby Clatterbuck	QB	Retired after career in sporting goods and dry cleaning
Charlie Conerly	QB	Deceased
Gene Filipski	HB	Deceased
Frank Gifford*	HB	Analyst *on ABC's Monday Night Football*
Roosevelt Grier	T	Actor-turned-minister/community activist
Don Heinrich	QB	Deceased; coached for Giants 1961
Sam Huff*	LB	Former hotel executive, now Washington broadcaster
Ed Hughes	HB	Retired after 32 years as NFL coach
Gerald Huth	G	Insurance claims adjuster
Jim Katcavage	DE	Deceased; coached for Giants 1969-73
Cliff Livingston	DE	Property management
Ken MacAfee	WR	Retired after career in sales
Dick Modzelewski	DT	Retired restaurateur and former NFL coach
Dick Nolan	CB	Head coach 49ers 1967-75, Saints 1978-1980, now retired
Jim Patton	S	Deceased; coached for Giants 1962-64
Herb Rich	S	Lawyer
Andy Robustelli*	DE	Owns travel agency and sports marketing company
Kyle Rote	HB	Former broadcaster, now investment executive
Bob Schnelker	E	Retired after 27 years as NFL coach
Jack Spinks	C	Deceased
Jack Stroud	G	Deceased
Harland Svare	LB	Head coach Rams 1962-65, runs sports medicine center
Bill Svoboda	LB	Deceased
Mel Triplett	FB	Retired; lives in Toledo, Ohio
Emlen Tunnell*	S	Deceased; coached for Giants 1963-73
Alex Webster	HB	Head coach Giants 1969-73, now retired from broadcasting
Ray Wietecha	C	Retired after 32 years as NFL coach, scout
Dick Yelvington	T	Retired federal narcotics agent
Walt Yowarsky	DT	Member of Dallas Cowboys scouting staff

HEAD COACH:	
Jim Lee Howell	Deceased; Giants head coach 1951-60
Assistants:	
Ken Kavanaugh	Member of Giants scouting staff
Ed Kolman	Deceased
Tom Landry*	Cowboys head coach 1960-1988; won two Super Bowls
Vince Lombardi*	Deceased; won first two Super Bowls as Packers head coach
Henry Moore	Real estate broker

(*Member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame) Source: New York Giants

The Bears never could get back into the game as the New York defense, led by Huff, Robustelli, and Patton, shut down fullback Rick Casares and split end Harlon Hill. Webster scored on two short runs, and Conerly threw touchdown passes to Kyle Rote and Gifford, and the Giants romped to their first league title since 1938.

After it was over, Howell told reporters: "I never saw a team so ready to play. All we [coaches] did was open the door and get the hell out of the way. I don't think anybody could have beaten us today."

The Giants were back in the championship game two years later, but they lost to Baltimore 23-17 in what some consider the greatest football game ever played. Surely, it was one of the most dramatic: the first sudden-death overtime game in NFL history with the Colts, led by quarterback Johnny Unitas, pulling out the victory. The game, which was televised nationally, brought millions of new fans to the National Football League and set the stage for the explosion of the game's popularity in the '60s.

The Giants lost another championship game to the Colts in 1959, then lost two more to the Packers (coached by Vince Lombardi) in 1961 and 1962. The Giants had one last shot in 1963, but, after scoring a team-record 448 points in the regular season, the Giants lost to Chicago in the championship game 14-10. Huff was traded to Washington after that season; Gifford and Robustelli retired one year later; and the team soon was dismantled.

But many of the players remained part of the Giants family. Webster stayed on as an assistant coach and served as head coach from 1969

through 1973. Robustelli was hired as director of operations in 1974 and for four years, Katcavage, Wietecha, Brown, and Ed Hughes all were assistant coaches with the Giants. Brown, who now works in the scouting department, just completed his forty-fourth season with the club.

"I feel like I was blessed," Brown says. "I was drafted in the twenty-seventh round in 1953. I was a nobody from a small school [Morgan State]. Nobody gave me a chance, but look at me. I'm still here.

"I made the team because I didn't think I had a choice. I didn't know the team paid your way home if you were cut. I thought I'd have to pay, and all I had was five dollars. We were training in Minnesota, my home was in Virginia, and I kept thinking: 'I can't make it home on five dollars. I have to make the team or else I'll be stranded here.'

"I tell people that story today and they laugh. But it's true."

Huff recalls how he and his roommate, kicker Don Chandler, actually left camp in 1956. The two rookies had given up on making the team, and they drove to the nearest airport to catch flights home. While they were waiting, Lombardi tracked them down and ordered them back to camp. Both had brilliant careers. Chandler holds the Giants' record for career punting average (43.8 yards).

"Funny, the things you remember," Huff says. "I remember showing up at camp that summer wearing overalls, a T-shirt, and a pair of white bucks. Heck, I was from West Virginia. What did I know about fashion? Gifford saw me and burst out laughing. Burned me up a little bit.

"There was a rivalry on our team between the offense and defense. At camp, the two units actually dressed in separate rooms. Each group thought it was responsible for the team's success. The rivalry really came down from Vince and Tom, who coached the offense and defense. You know how competitive those two guys were.

"There was a little jealousy [on the offense] when we started to get so much publicity," Huff says. "They did not like it, for example, when the defense was introduced to the crowd at some home games. But if you check the record, you'll see the defense really was the key to our success."

Gifford, who is listening, chuckles.

"Give me a break, Sam," he says. "We scored forty points [actually 47] in the championship game. The defense didn't even have to show up."

"How many of those points were set up by the defense?" Huff answers.

TOM MILLER

The Old Gang: *Owner Wellington Mara (tie) welcomed back his 1956 champions at a reunion this season.*

Back and forth it went, just like in the old days.

"Behind all that is a lot of respect and love," says Grier, now a minister in southern California. "I've never been around a closer group. I was born in Georgia, and I didn't know what to expect when I was drafted by the Giants. There weren't many black players in the NFL [there were four on the 1956 Giants], and I wondered what I'd find.

"What I found was a family. It didn't matter what color you were, you were accepted. These guys will always have a special place in my heart. I would not have missed this reunion for anything."

In 1956, Cliff Livingston was a swift, rangy outside linebacker. He also was a bachelor and free spirit of considerable renown, the Broadway Joe Namath of his time. Even at 66, Livingston is the 1956 Giants' most dashing figure with his blond hair and earring.

Asked if any of his former teammates teased him about the earring, Livingston shook his head. "I think they would've been disappointed if I didn't have one," he says. "I'm only sorry I cut off my ponytail."

The former UCLA star did some acting, including TV commercials, after he quit playing football in 1963. Livingston became involved in a construction business near his home in Newport Beach, California. His wife Linda is a former *Playboy* bunny, and his daughter Paige is an actress who appeared in the film *Last Man Standing* in 1996.

It was inevitable that one of the players would mention the trip to Dallas for a preseason game in 1956. That was the trip on which Livingston lost his clothes. Sort of.

"After the game, we went to this girl's place for a swimming party," Svare recalls. "We had a great time. Cliff wound up staying over. The rest of us went back to the hotel because we were flying out early in the morning. Cliff overslept and had to catch a cab to the airport. He didn't have time to go back to the hotel for his clothes. All he had to wear was his bathing suit."

"My roommate, Ken MacAfee, packed my clothes and brought them with him," Livingston says. "I was riding in the cab, chasing the bus to the airport. The bus pulled onto the runway, right next to the plane. The cabbie wasn't allowed out there, so I had to jump out and run across the landing strip in my swim trunks.

"I ran up the steps onto the plane, and there was Jim Lee, just staring at me. I got my suitcase from MacAfee, went in the men's room, put on some clothes, and got back in my seat as quick as I could. All the guys were asking: 'What happened?' Jim Lee wound up fining me $250. Considering that I was making only $6,000, that was a pretty steep fine."

Livingston looked across the table at Svare and laughed.

"You know something, Swede?" Livingston says. "It was worth every penny." ⚜

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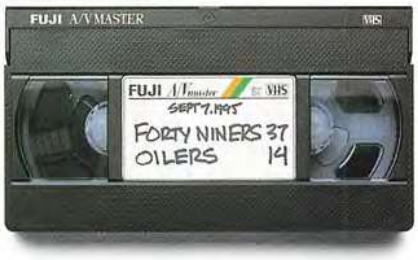

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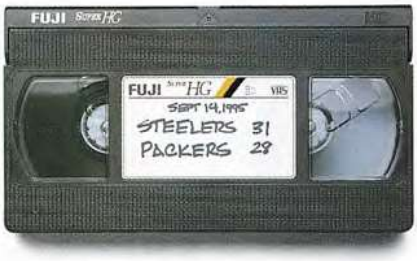

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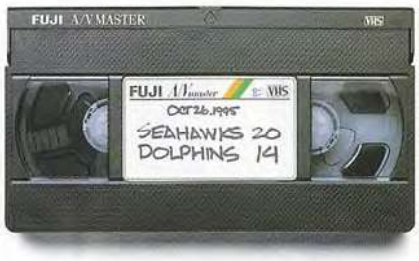

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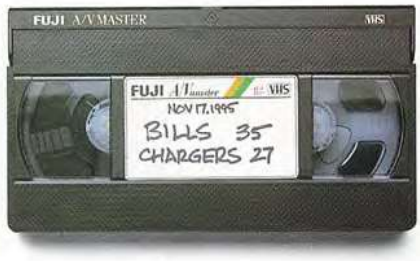

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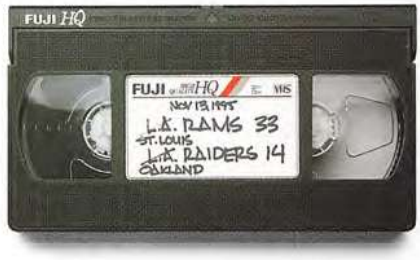

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NFL Players Have Fond Memories of Their Experiences in the World League

By James Buckley, Jr.

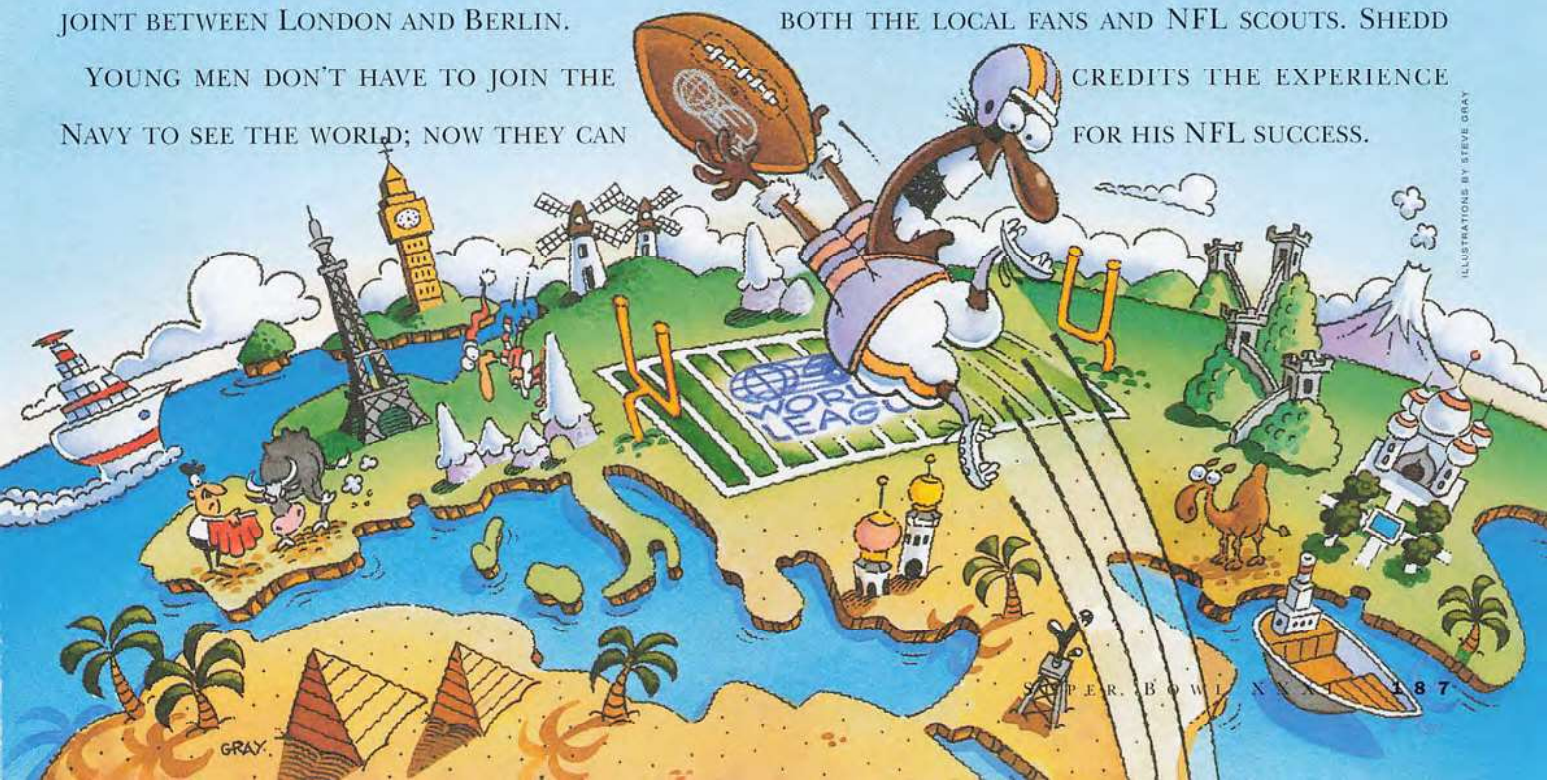
Thanks to the World League, Adam Vinatieri may be the only kicker in history to convert extra points in Yankton, South Dakota, Foxboro, Massachusetts, and Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Thanks to the World League, Kenny Shedd learned that when European sports fans whistle, they're not expressing happiness.

And, thanks to the World League, George Hegamin and most of his American teammates now know the location of every fast-food joint between London and Berlin.

Young men don't have to join the Navy to see the world; now they can play football. Since 1991, the World League (see page 192) has provided a new outlet for American football players and a new spectator sport for Europeans.

More than 100 players on 1996 opening-day NFL rosters spent some time in the World League, including Vinatieri (New England's kicker), Shedd (a wide receiver for Oakland), and Hegamin (an offensive lineman for Dallas). In the World League, they competed against tough opposition, showing off for both the local fans and NFL scouts. Shedd credits the experience for his NFL success.



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"I was able to get the game experience that helped me make the Raiders this season," says Shedd, who played for the Barcelona Dragons. "There wasn't a day that went by in camp that I didn't use something I learned in Spain."

The league not only gives players another avenue into the NFL but also allows them to explore the world. For many, this was their first experience with a culture different from their own. It was, says Vinatieri, who spent his summer with the Amsterdam Admirals, "a buffet sampler of Europe."

Among the places on the players' itinerary:

- Amsterdam, a city with buildings "older than anything in my own home country of Australia," says Chargers punter Darren Bennett, who played for the Admirals in 1995.
- Edinburgh, home of the Scottish Claymores and scores of Gothic buildings, which reminded Shedd of "one humongous college campus."
- London, where Rams linebacker Cedric Figaro, a former member of the Admirals, shopped in a store that resembled a "mini-Manhattan."
- Frankfurt, where Hegamin, who played for the hometown Galaxy, learned that Germans "love their beer, man."

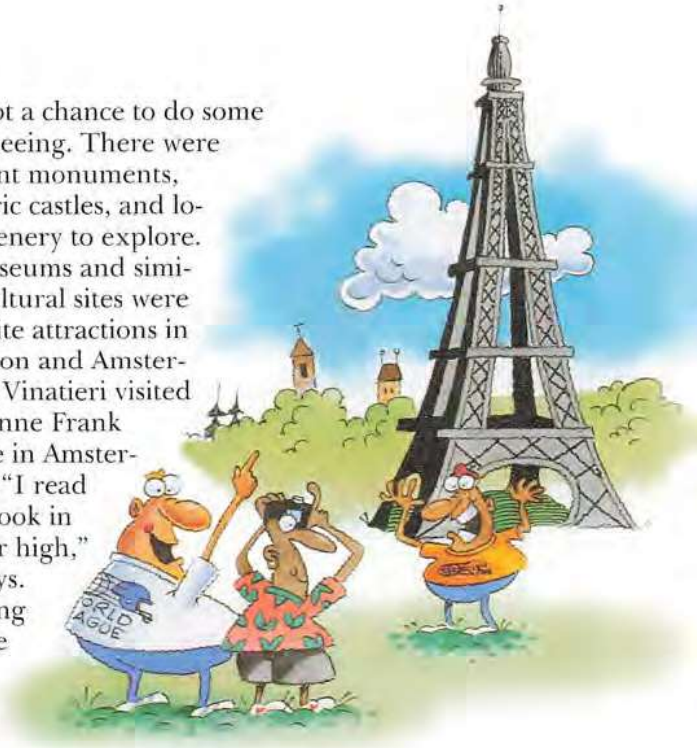
No matter what city they played in or visited, there were new languages to learn, new customs to experience, new ways of looking at everything.

"We had to learn about siesta," Shedd remembers. "Every day [in Barcelona], the whole town just shuts down from two to five in the afternoon. At first, we were at a loss working around that schedule. But then we learned to take advantage of it, and we spent a lot of time at the beach."

Bennett appreciated Amsterdam for its latitude. "Being so far north, the sun didn't go down until eleven-thirty at night," he says. "And the weather was great all summer."

When they weren't practicing or playing, most players got a chance to do some sightseeing. There were ancient monuments, historic castles, and local scenery to explore.

Museums and similar cultural sites were favorite attractions in London and Amsterdam. Vinatieri visited the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam. "I read her book in junior high," he says. "Seeing where she had lived in person was very moving, very special."



The proximity of European cities made for easy visits. Hegamin and a few Frankfurt teammates went to Paris for two days after a Saturday game in Germany. The visit was too short, he says, but it was nice to see the Eiffel Tower.

By the end of his spring in Europe in 1995, Figaro was acting as an Amsterdam tour guide. "When other teams came to town to play us, we'd take them out to the best places," he says.

Some players sampled the local sporting fare. Vinatieri came to appreciate the Dutch people's love of soccer. "I went to the semifinals of the UEFA Cup [a continent-wide tournament for club teams]," says the former Rapid City (South Dakota) High School soccer player. "Ajax Amsterdam played a Greek team. And if you think fans in the U.S. are diehards, you ain't seen nothing. There must have been 80,000 insane people in this stadium. And even though you couldn't understand what they were screaming most of the time, you couldn't help but get into it."

Communication was a daily hurdle for many World League players.

"I really struggled with Catalan," says Shedd, who did learn one key way European fans express themselves. "In our first game, we thought the fans were supporting us because they were whistling all the time. Then we learned that whistling there is like booing in the States."

"I picked up the key phrases in Dutch," Vinatieri says, "Fortunately, everyone but the grandparents there spoke some English."

The one language World League players found in common with their fans was the language of football.

"The fans were great," Hegamin says. "I met a lot of guys who were getting into coaching. They asked all sorts of questions about my position and my techniques."

"They'd see us wearing our Admirals gear around

THE NFL GOES GLOBAL

LONDON, January 31, 2027—Fans from around the world have poured into London for the kickoff of Super Bowl LXI. Today's game, the second Super Bowl to be played in Europe, will pit the Carolina Panthers against the Italy Stallions before a capacity crowd in London's new Olympic Stadium.

A worldwide television audience of more than 3 billion is expected to tune in. The residents of U.N. Space Station Atlantis will enjoy the live broadcast via the World Wide Web.

Well, okay, maybe the space station part is a bit much, but the NFL is rapidly spreading around the world, with new fans tuning in every day. Why not in outer space?

Actually, communications satellites floating through space already play a big part in one of the NFL's most prominent international activities—the transmission of the Super Bowl broadcast to more than 180 countries. Last year, an estimated 750 million people watched Super Bowl XXX live via satellite, and a similar audience is expected this year. Broadcasters from nearly 20 countries will have commentators at the Superdome, describing the action in every imaginable language.

The Super Bowl broadcast isn't the only NFL action being beamed worldwide. The league also offers international broadcasters season-long highlights packages, NFL Films presentations, preseason specials, and live game footage.

NFL International, a separate division of the league, was established to help create new NFL fans from Tokyo to Timbuktu. Those efforts extend well beyond television shows.

World League: This spring, the World League will begin its third season as an all-European entity. Six teams in four countries (Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) compete in a 10-game schedule. Rosters are filled with players from America and the host countries. A joint venture of FOX Sports and the NFL, the World League features exciting pro football action that doesn't suffer through distance from the States. More than 100 former World League players saw action in NFL games this season. In World Bowl '96, the league championship game, the Scottish Claymores defeated the Frankfurt Galaxy 32-27.

NFL World: *Jerome Bettis (center) turned Japanese for an American Bowl; the World League exports football and face-painting.*

American Bowl Series: Launched in 1986, the American Bowl games are the NFL's longest-running international showcase. Twenty-seven NFL preseason games have been played in cities such as Barcelona, Berlin, London, Mexico City, Tokyo, and Toronto. American Bowls also include fan-pleasers such as The NFL Experience, Punt, Pass & Kick competitions, and NFL-hosted football clinics. The all-time NFL single-game attendance record was set in 1994 when 112,376 spectators jammed Mexico City's Azteca Stadium for the Houston-Dallas American Bowl.

Wilson World Partnership: While creating fans is a big part of NFL International's work, creating players is another. By organizing clinics, flag-football leagues in World League cities, and the European Junior Championship, the Wilson World Partnership reaches around the world to foster grass-roots growth of the game. New Orleans, Super Bowl XXXI host city, was the site of the Global Junior Championship, featuring high school players from Europe and Mexico (see page 25).

And the beat goes on...

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town and come up and talk to us and ask us about the games," Figaro says. "The people were all really friendly. It seemed like a great place to live."

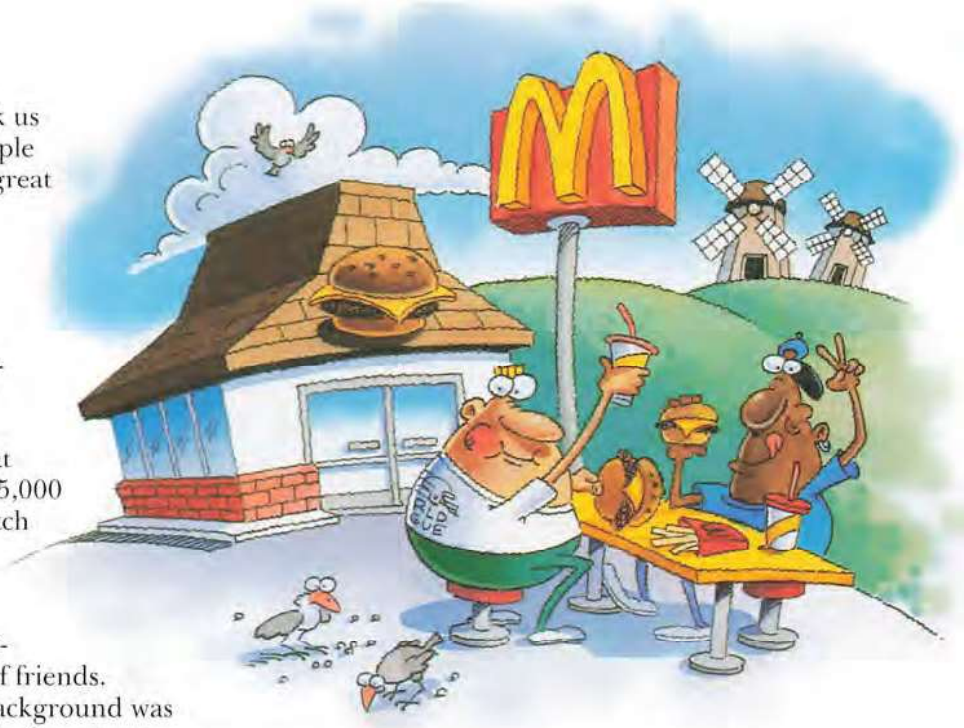
And a great place to play. Shedd's Dragons played in the same stadium he'd seen on television during the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Vinatieri's Admirals played in the last game in Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium, home of the 1928 Summer Games. "It was a really moving ceremony when they put out that torch," he remembers. And more than 35,000 fans braved the rain in Edinburgh to watch the Scottish Claymores defeat the Frankfurt Galaxy in the 1996 World Bowl.

For Bennett, the World League experience introduced him to a unique circle of friends. "Coming to the NFL without a college background was tough," he says. (Bennett joined the NFL after a career in Australian Rules football.) "Every week, guys on the Chargers would see players on other teams that they'd played with and against in college. Now, with the guys from the World League, I have that same sort of community."

Shedd experienced a different kind of community during his summer in Spain. The Dragons were headquartered in tiny Sitges, about 45 minutes outside of Barcelona on the Mediterranean. Sitges is a small

Spanish community in which the locals embraced their oversized visitors.

"I remember a few nights before a big game with Frankfurt," Shedd says, "the people of the town threw us a big party. Then we all went to the disco. When we walked in, everybody cheered and cleared the dance floor for us. So we took the floor, and showed them how we danced. Then they did their own Spanish-type dancing. The whole evening was a great feeling, America and Spain really coming together."



Bennett says one of the first things the team went over in preseason orientation was the location of all the McDonald's, Burger Kings, and Wendy's in the greater Amsterdam area.

Where cultures parted company was at the dinner table. Rare indeed was the fast-food-bred football player who enjoyed European cuisine.

"To be fair," Shedd says with a grimace, "the food was probably good if you were used to it. It was just different."

Europeans didn't always understand American taste buds, either. "The hotel food was less than perfect," Vinatieri says. "They made food that they imagined Americans would like. It was always some sort of strange macaroni-and-cheese thing."

Research and local knowledge led the players to their comfort foods. "There were a couple guys on the team who had been there before," Hegamin says. "They knew where we could get American food.

"Let me tell you, I ate a lot of Popeye's fried chicken in Europe."

At the end of their tours, the wandering World League players made their way back across the pond. Shedd played special teams and caught a few passes for Oakland. Hegamin was the Cowboys' number-one backup for four line positions. Vinatieri helped win a few games for New England. Figaro was a spot starter for St. Louis. And Bennett starred for San Diego, earning a Pro Bowl selection. Dozens of others made an impact on the NFL after Europe had made an impact on them.

The players say they look forward to future visits to Europe, when they'll have more time to explore and visit with people they came to like. World League players always will have a little bit of Europe in them.

"I can attribute much of my success this season to going to Germany," Hegamin says. "It really helped me find out where I was going. It helped me grow as an athlete and as a person." ⚜

	Winning Team	Winning Paper
Super Bowl IX	Pittsburgh Steelers	Champion
Super Bowl X	Pittsburgh Steelers	Champion
Super Bowl XI	Oakland Raiders	Champion
Super Bowl XII	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XIII	Pittsburgh Steelers	Champion
Super Bowl XIV	Pittsburgh Steelers	Champion
Super Bowl XV	Oakland Raiders	Champion
Super Bowl XVI	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XVII	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XVIII	Los Angeles Raiders	Champion
Super Bowl XIX	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XX	Chicago Bears	Champion
Super Bowl XXI	New York Giants	Champion
Super Bowl XXII	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XXIII	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XXIV	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XXV	New York Giants	Champion
Super Bowl XXVI	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XXVII	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XXVIII	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XXIX	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XXX	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XXXI		Champion

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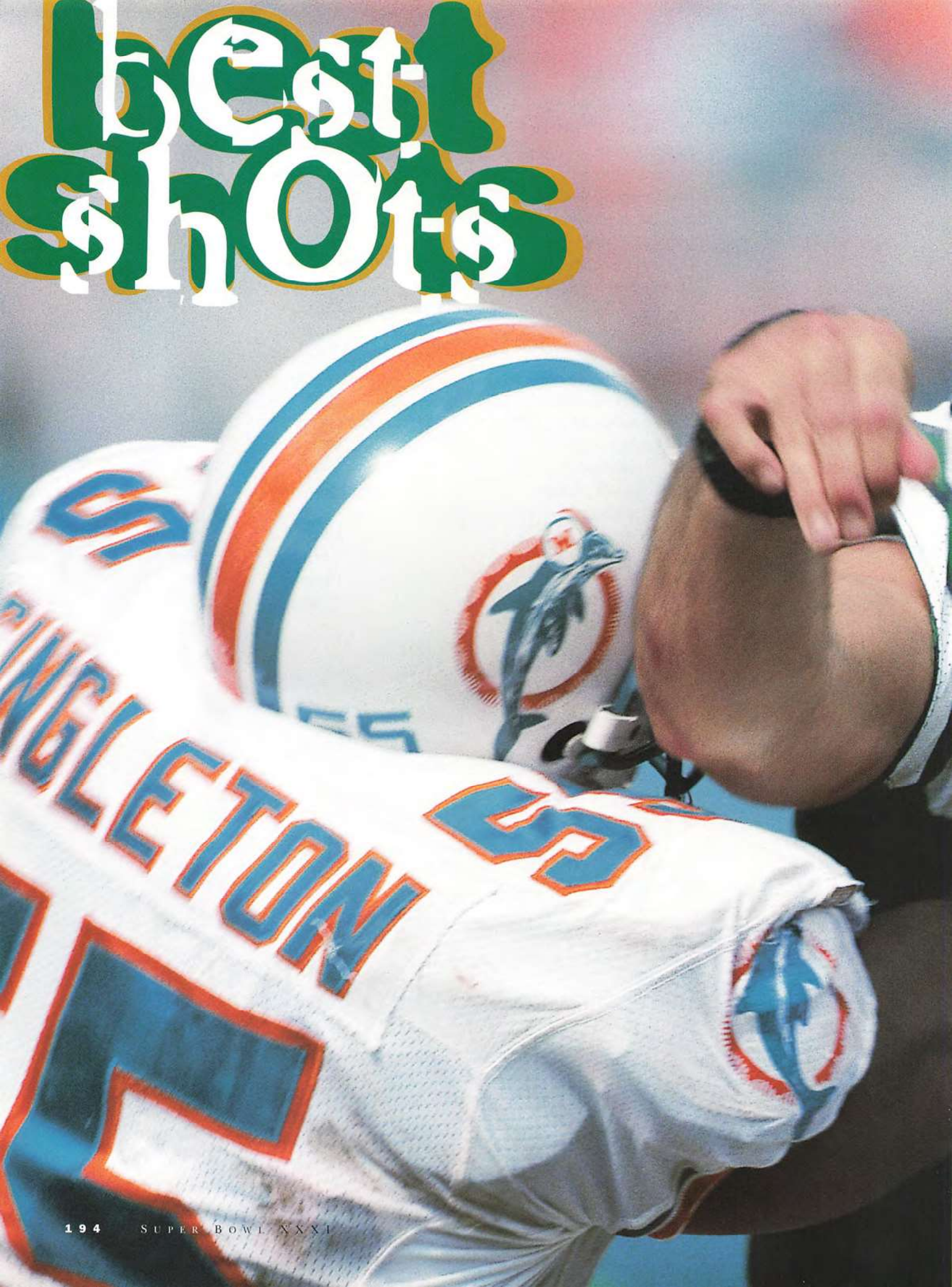
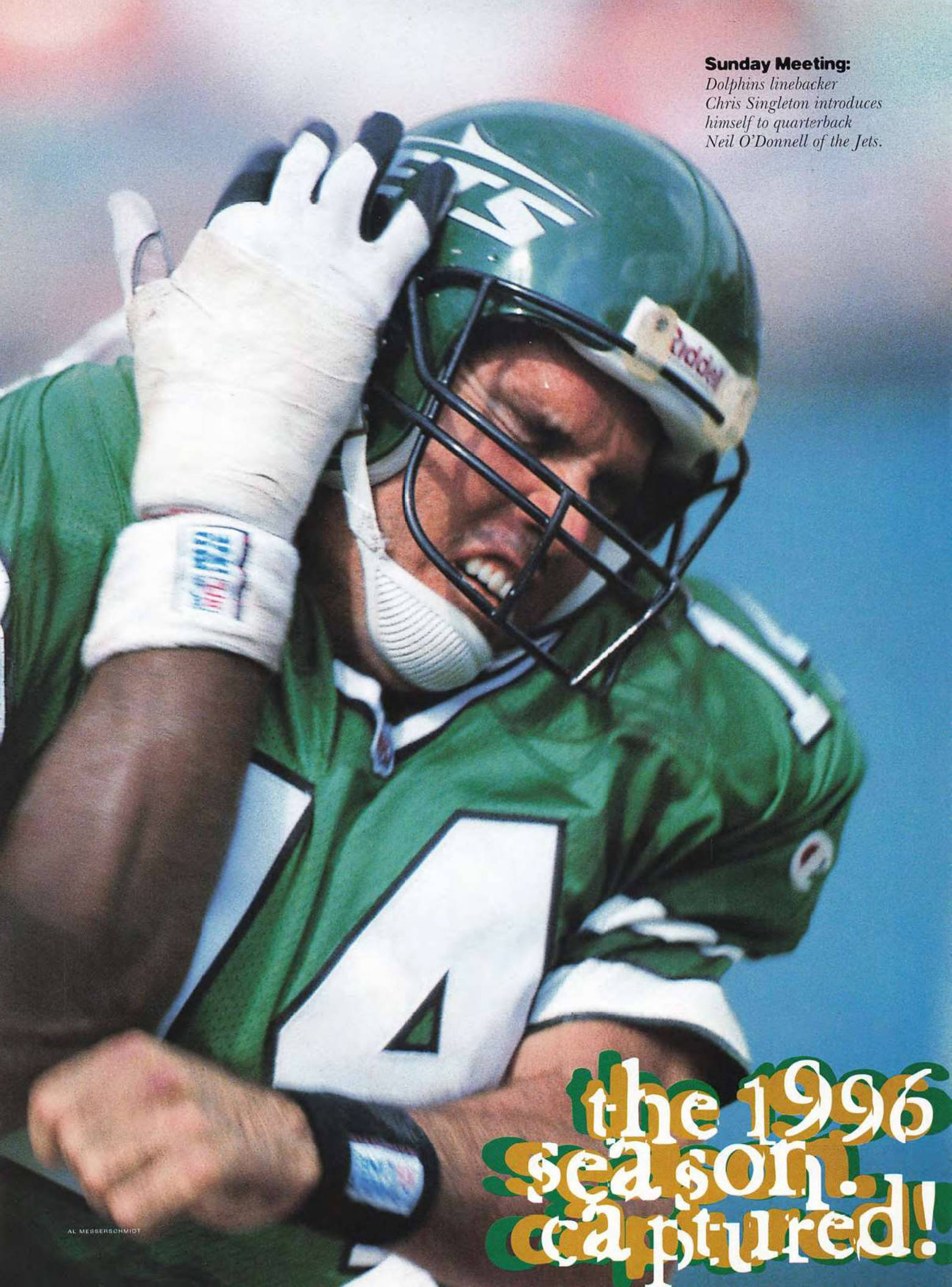
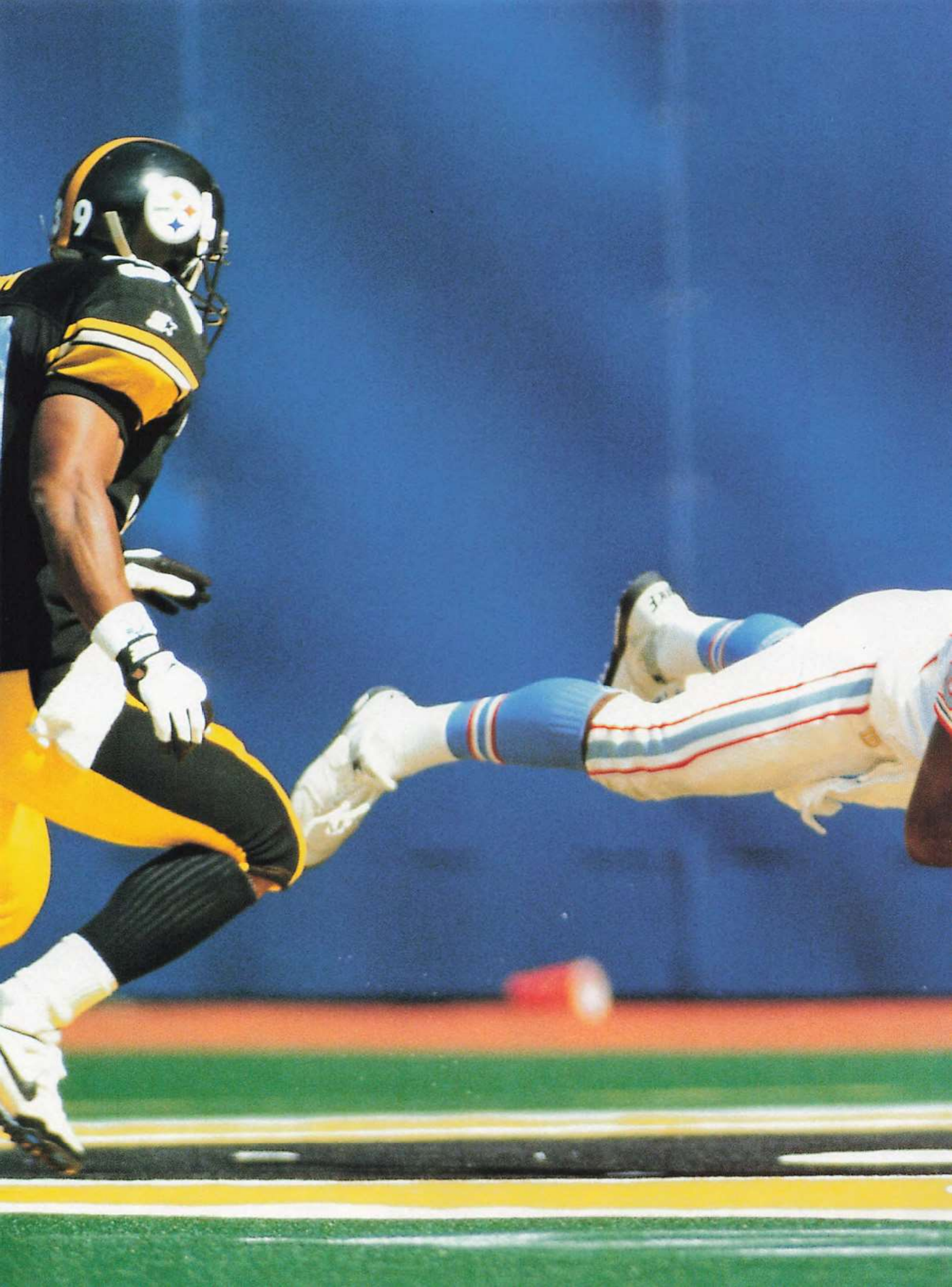




Sunday Meeting:
Dolphins linebacker Chris Singleton introduces himself to quarterback Neil O'Donnell of the Jets.

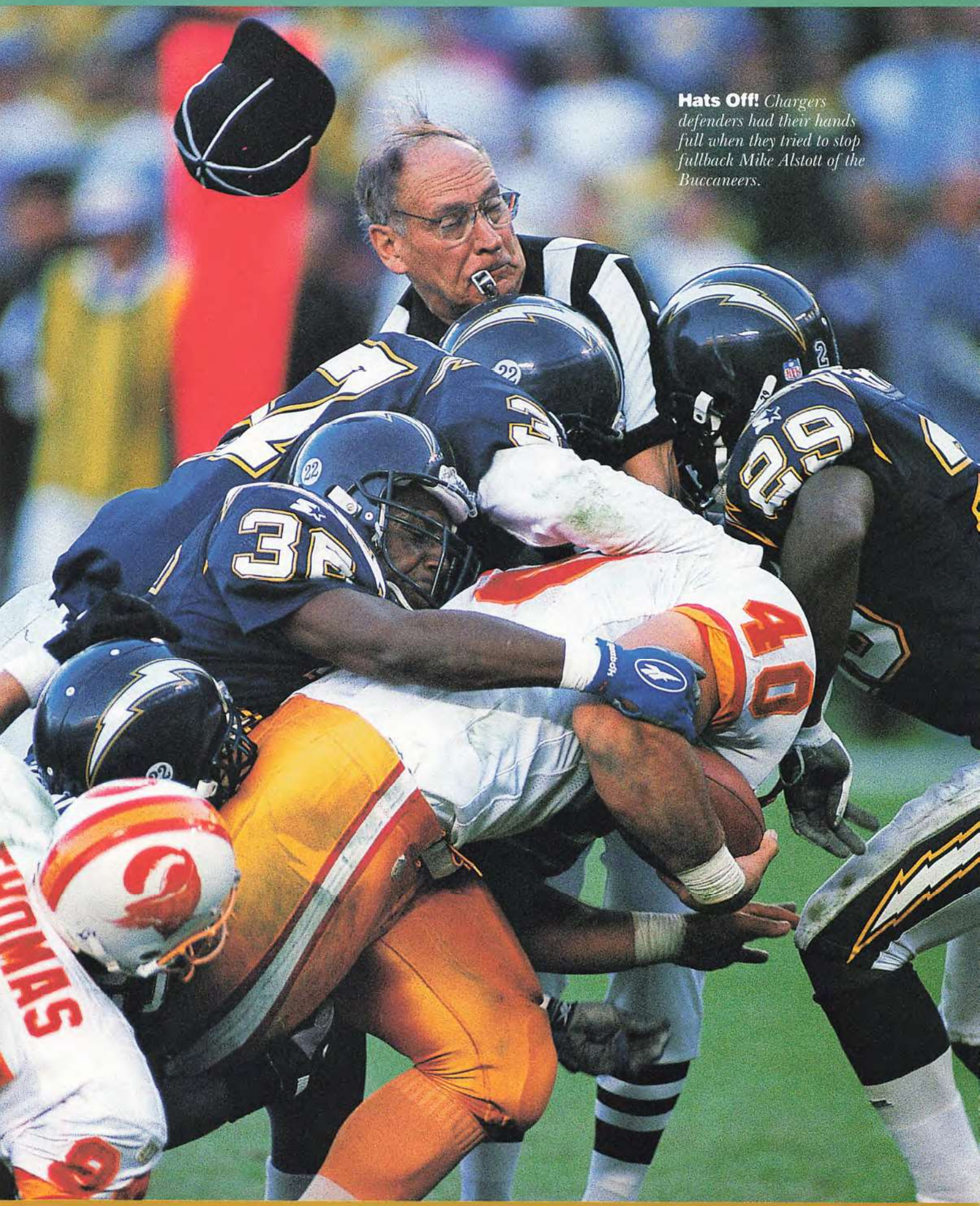
the 1996 season. captured!

AL MESSERSCHMIDT



Airborne Oiler: *Wide receiver Chris Sanders flies through the air for a reception between two admiring Steelers defenders.*

LOUIS DELUCA



Hats Off! *Chargers defenders had their hands full when they tried to stop fullback Mike Alstott of the Buccaneers.*

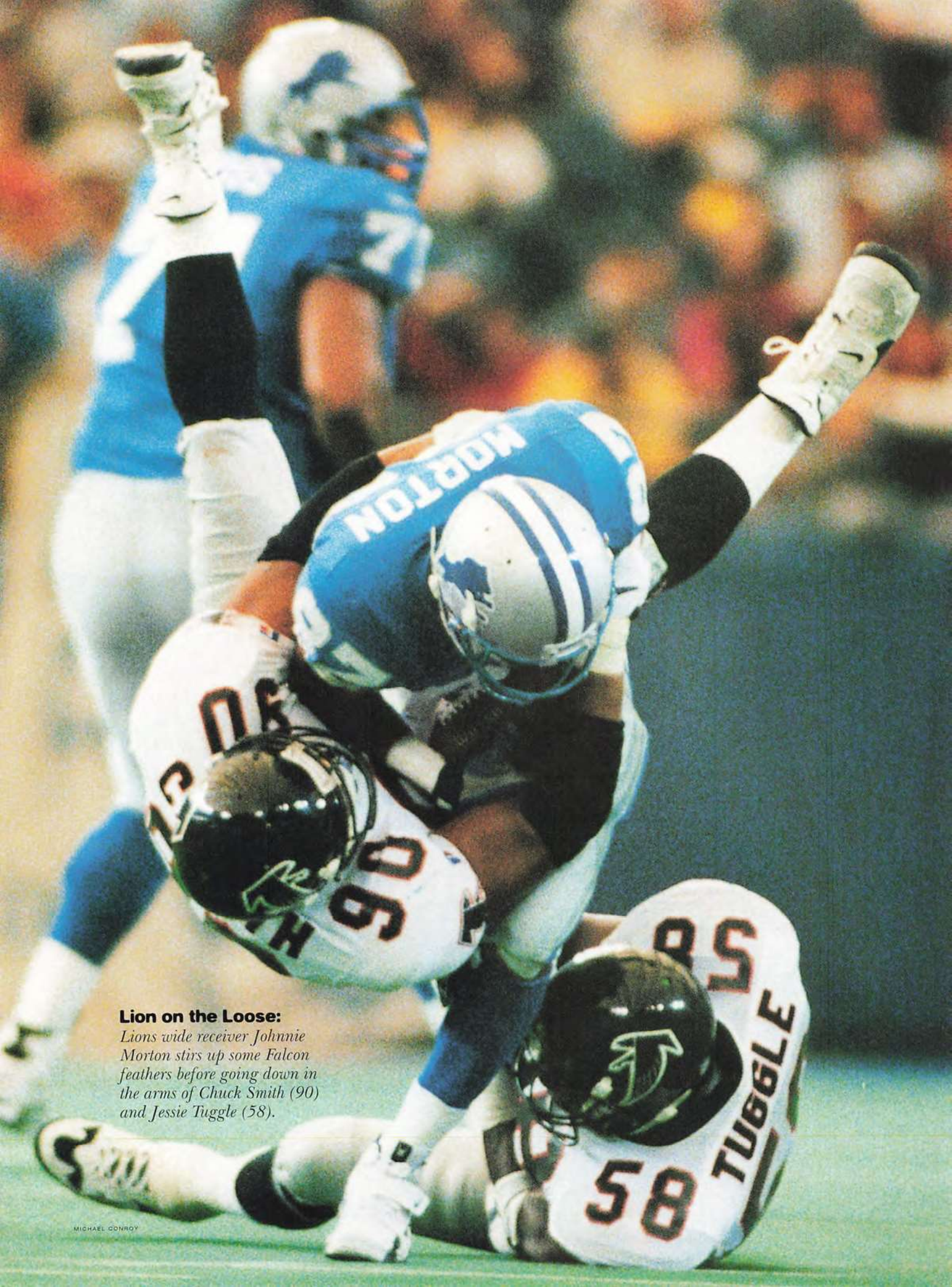
PAUL SPINELLI

Bear Hug: *Running back Rashaan Salaam of the Bears attracts a crowd of Raiders.*

MICHAEL CONROY

Trouble Ahead!
Defensive end Ferric Collons of the Patriots sets his sights on Redskins quarterback Gus Frerotte.

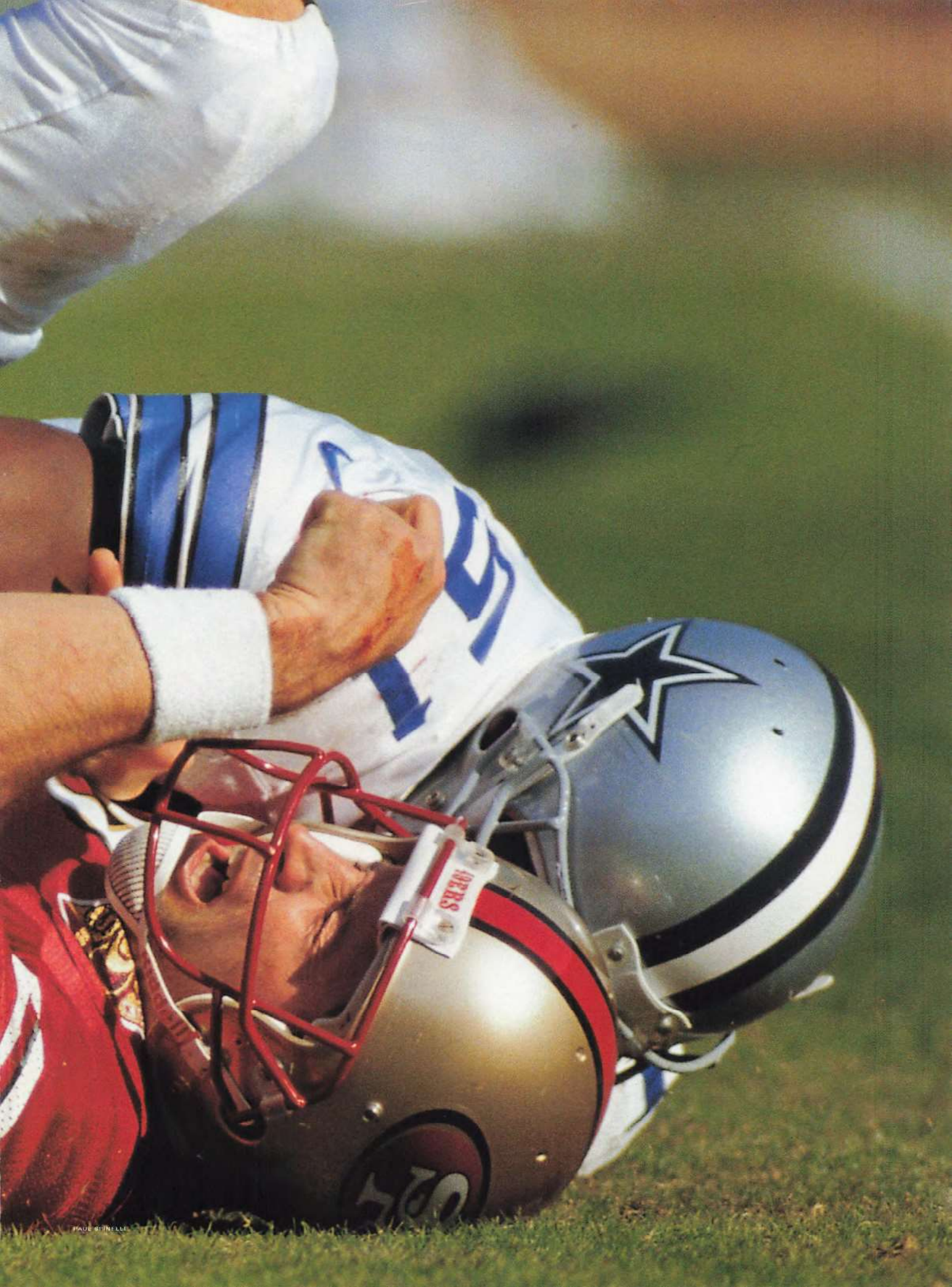
TOMY TOMSIC

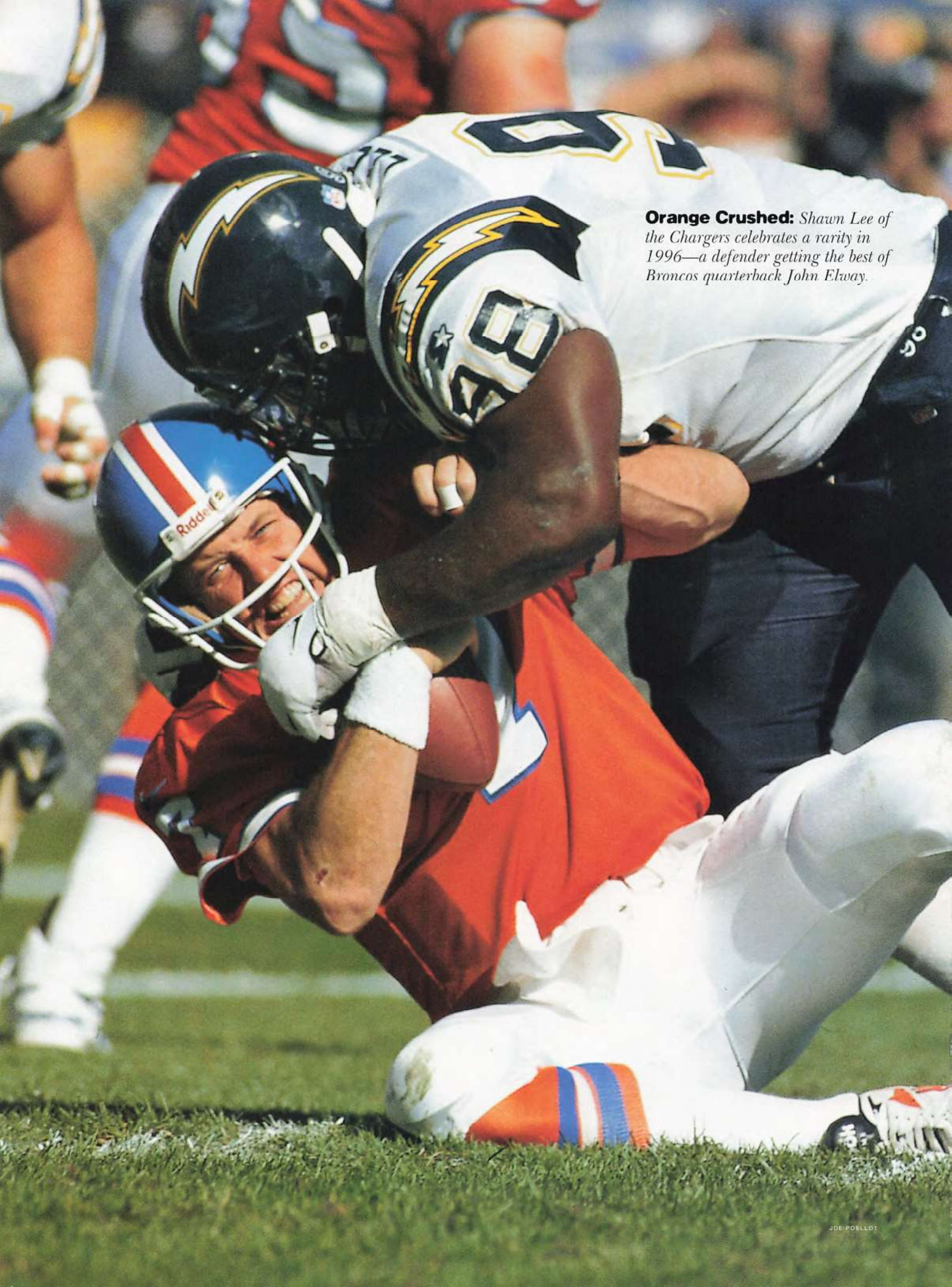


Lion on the Loose:
Lions wide receiver Johnnie Morton stirs up some Falcon feathers before going down in the arms of Chuck Smith (90) and Jessie Tuggle (58).

MICHAEL CONROY

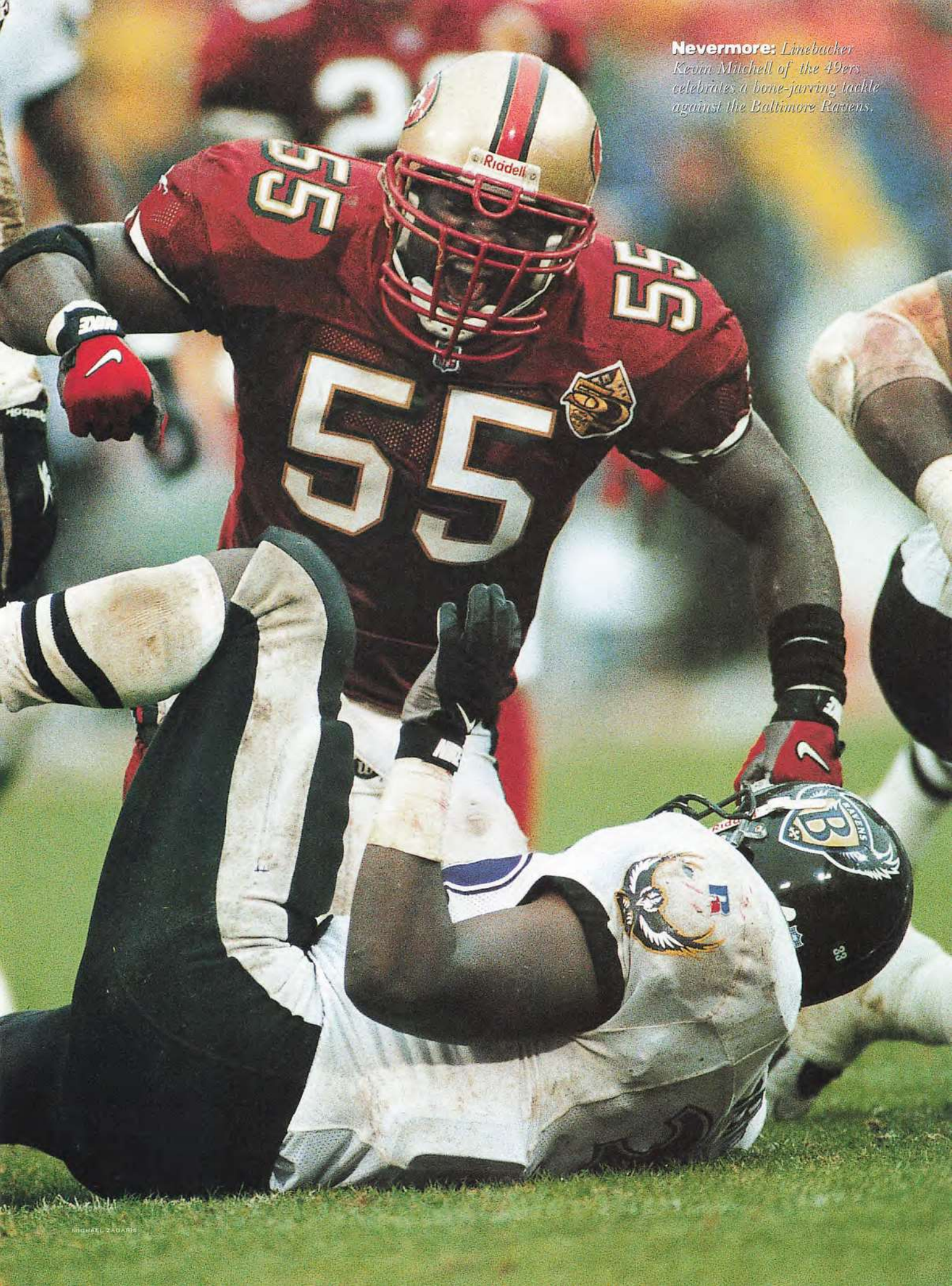
One-Point Landing: *Quarterback Steve Young of the 49ers crashes to the turf, courtesy of Cowboys linebacker Broderick Thomas.*


49ERS



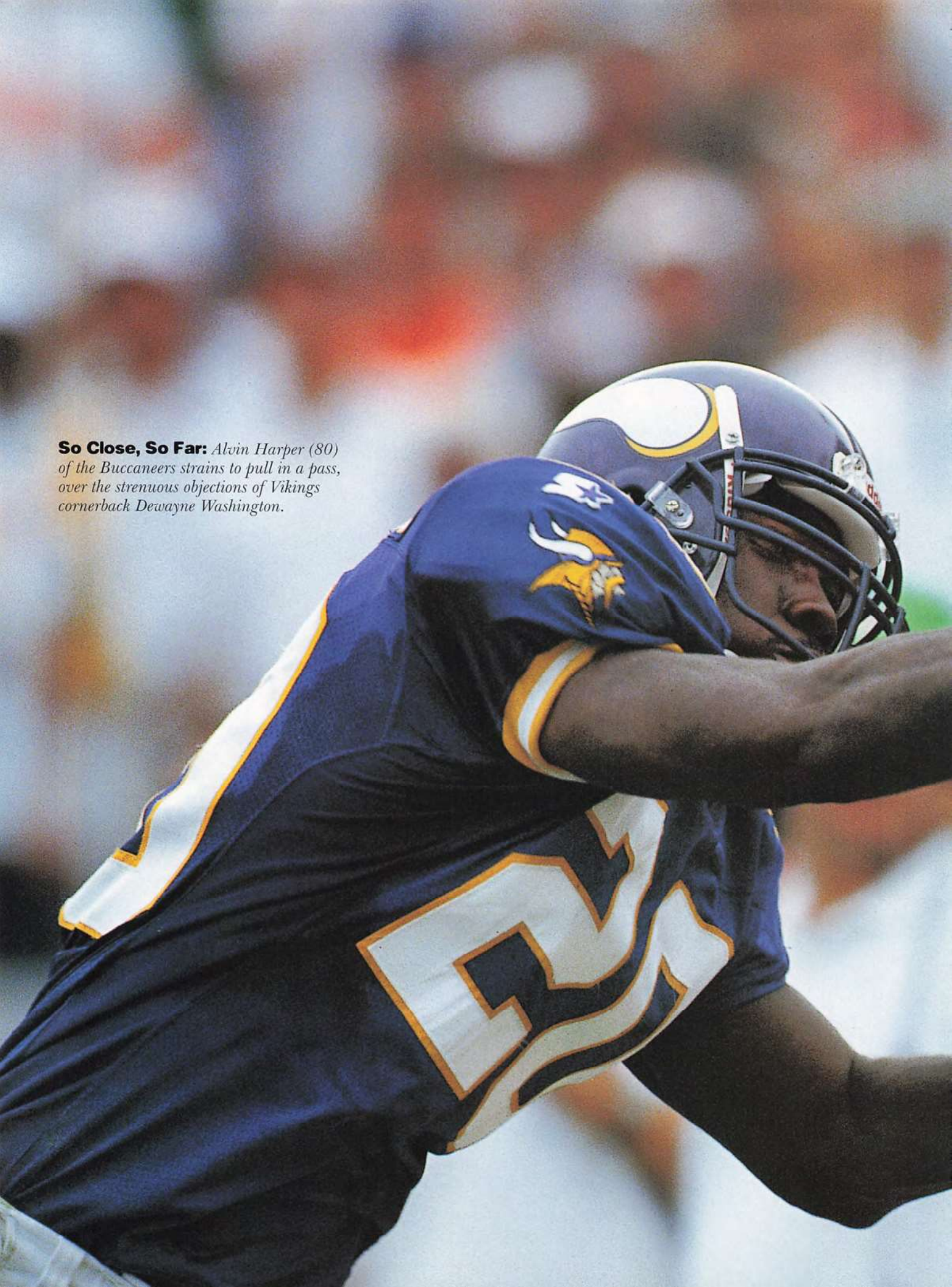
Orange Crushed: *Shawn Lee of the Chargers celebrates a rarity in 1996—a defender getting the best of Broncos quarterback John Elway.*

JOE ROBBINS



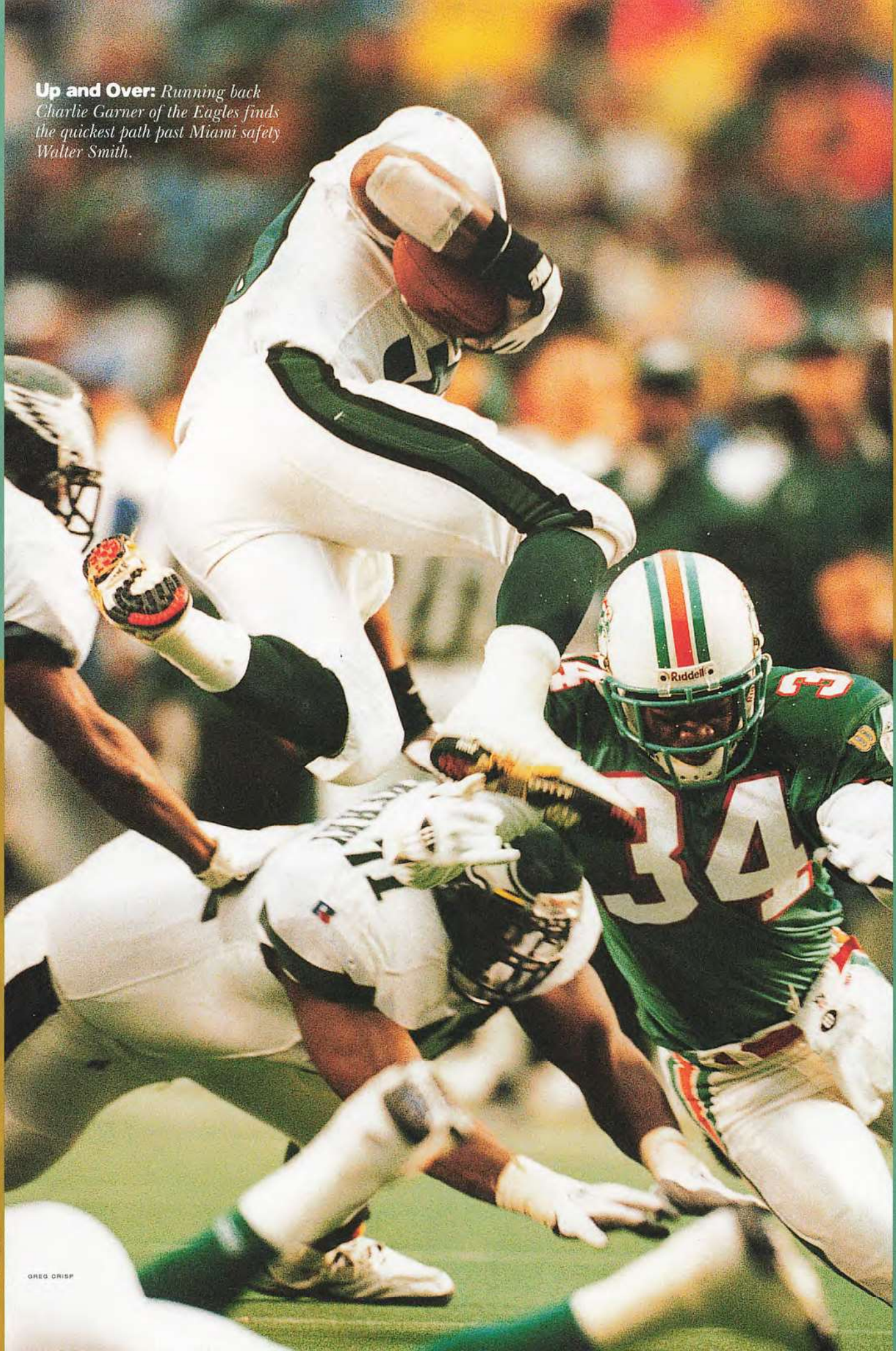
Nevermore: *Linebacker Kevin Mitchell of the 49ers celebrates a bone-jarring tackle against the Baltimore Ravens.*

MICHAEL ZAGARIS



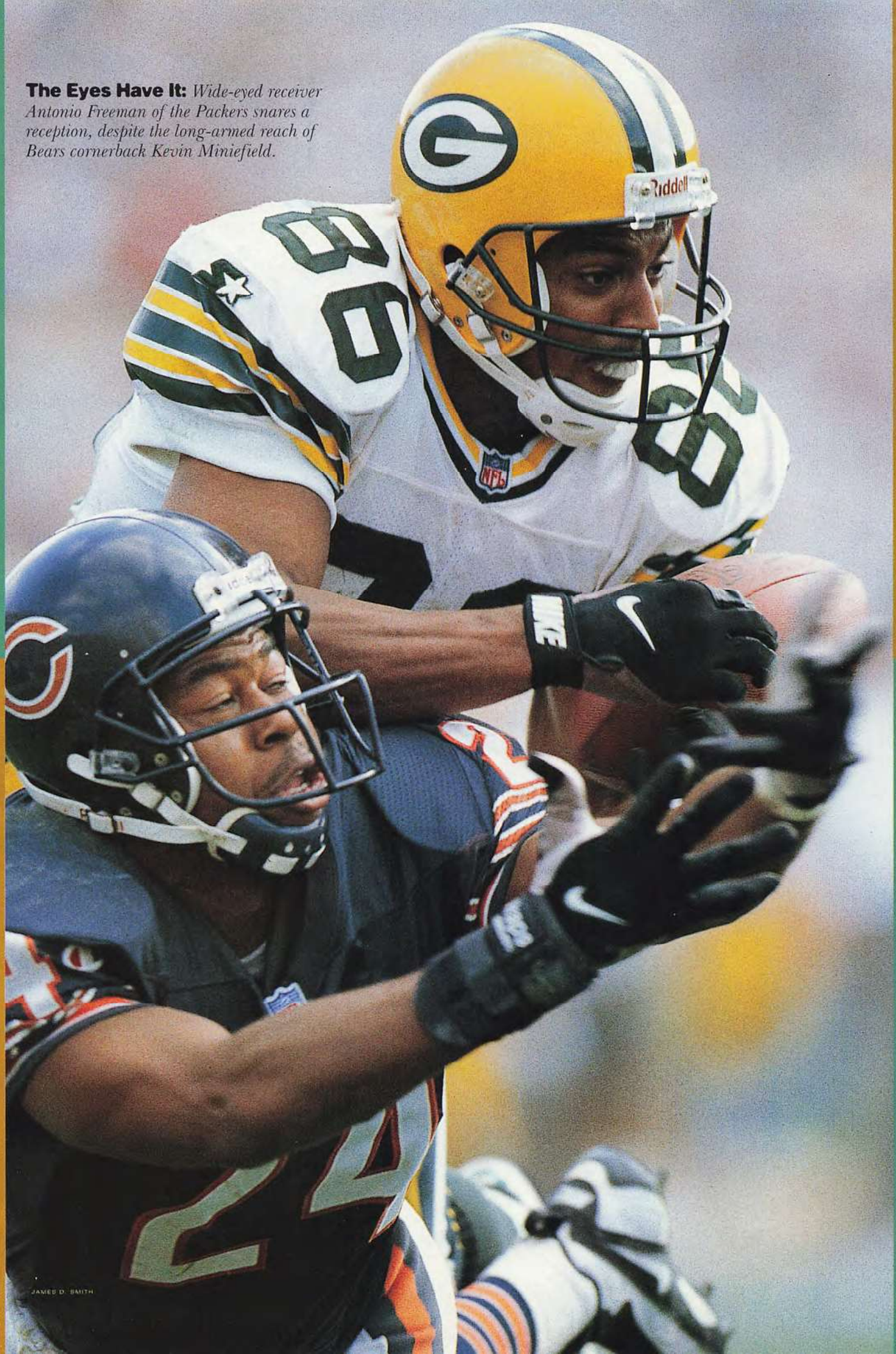
So Close, So Far: *Alvin Harper (80) of the Buccaneers strains to pull in a pass, over the strenuous objections of Vikings cornerback Dewayne Washington.*

AL MESSERSCHMIDT



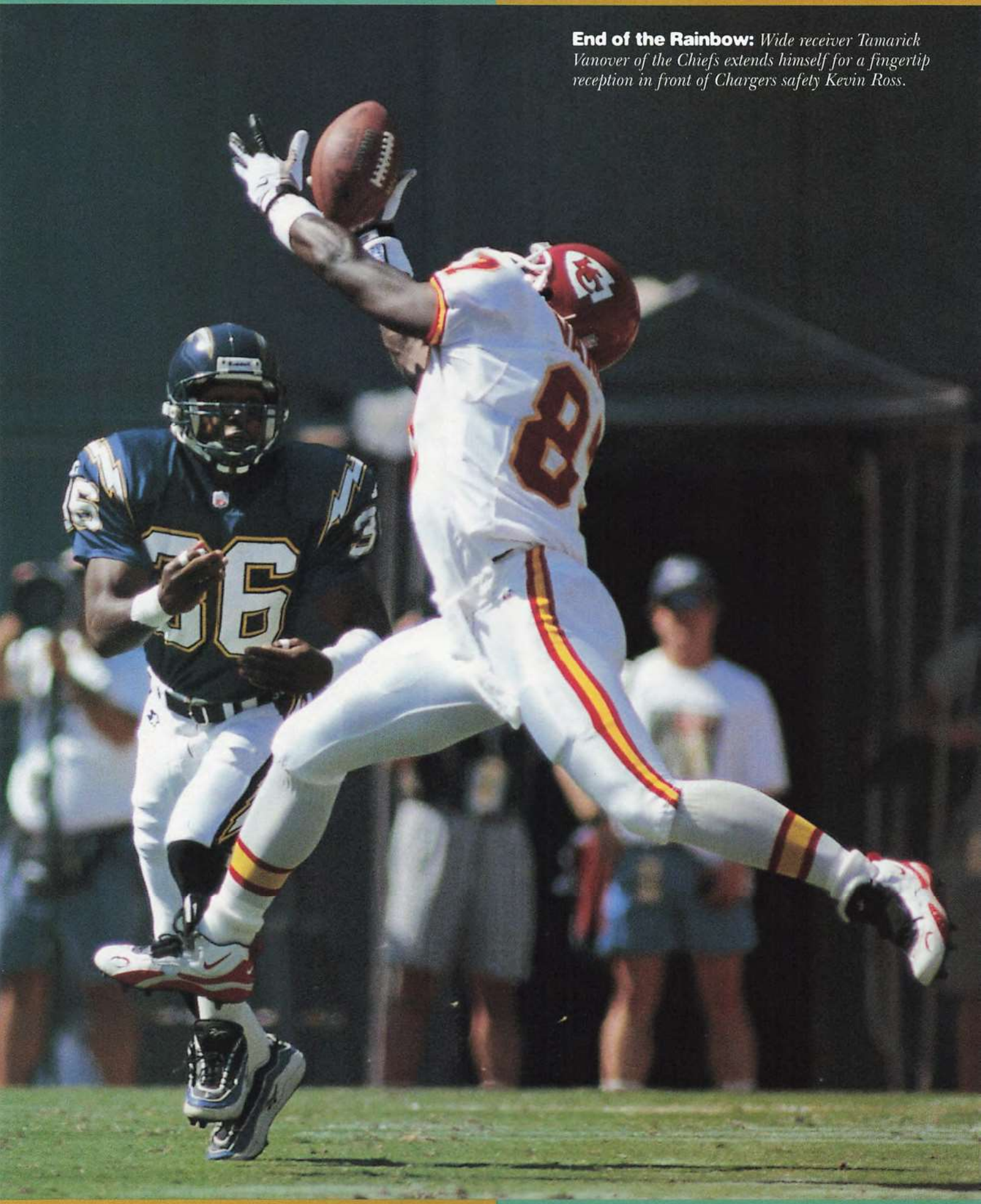
Up and Over: *Running back Charlie Garner of the Eagles finds the quickest path past Miami safety Walter Smith.*

GREG CRISP



The Eyes Have It: *Wide-eyed receiver Antonio Freeman of the Packers snares a reception, despite the long-armed reach of Bears cornerback Kevin Miniefield.*

JAMES D. SMITH



End of the Rainbow: *Wide receiver Tamarick Vanover of the Chiefs extends himself for a fingertip reception in front of Chargers safety Kevin Ross.*

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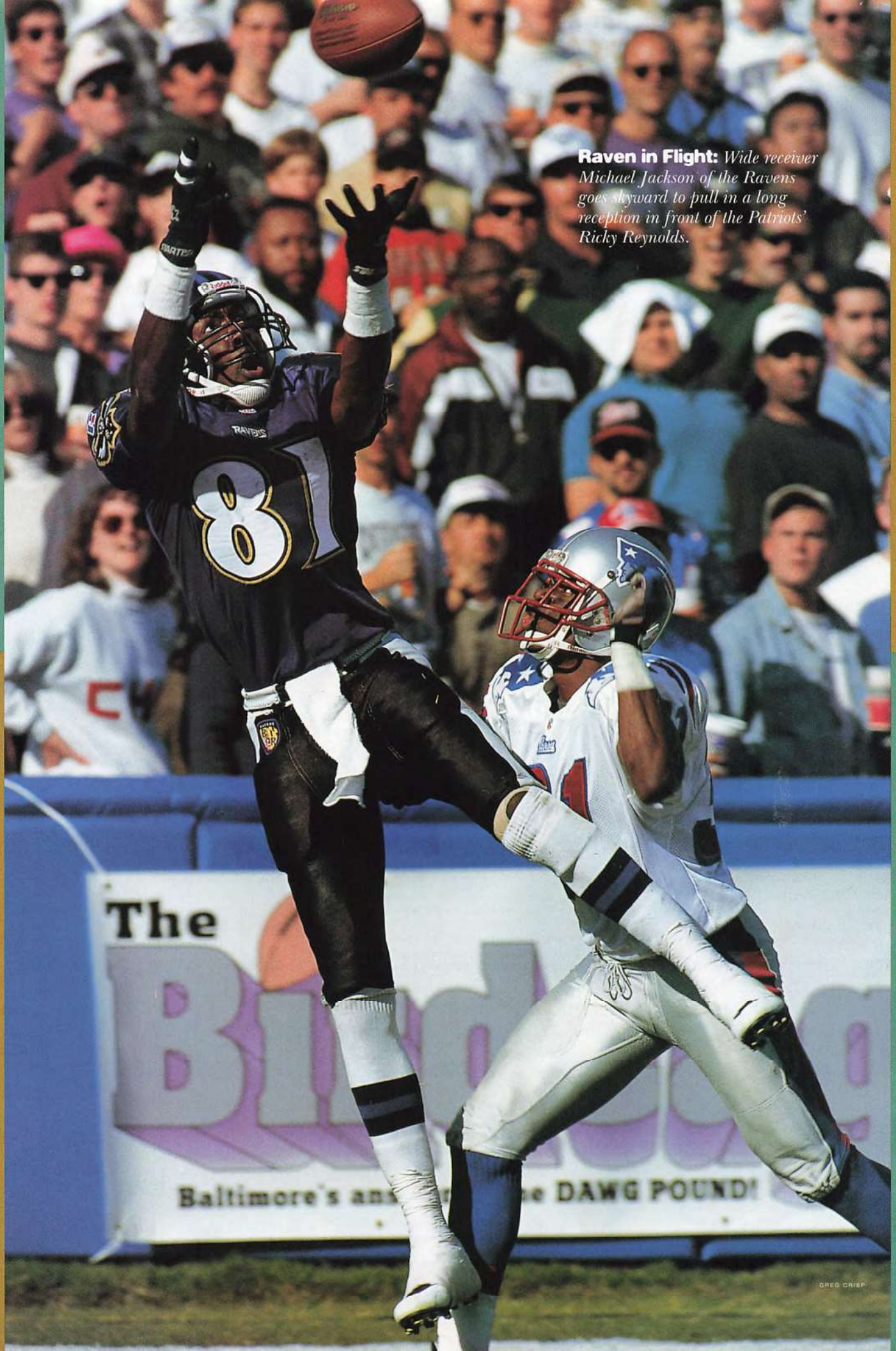


Raven in Flight: *Wide receiver Michael Jackson of the Ravens goes skyward to pull in a long reception in front of the Patriots' Ricky Reynolds.*

NFL'S CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PAVES THE WAY FOR PLAYERS' TRANSITIONS

LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL

Eric Kattus always has been a smart guy. Even in his first few seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals, a heady time for a young player in the glow of the NFL spotlight, Kattus was realistic about the future.

"I always knew that as fast as it all had come to me, it could be taken away just as quickly," says Kattus, a 33-year-old Michigan product who played tight end for the Bengals from 1986 to 1991. "So I didn't relax in the offseason. I worked for a real-estate company one year, and I took Dale Carnegie courses another. Then I learned about an internship program at Reebok. One of my teammates [running back Stanford Jennings] already had participated, and he told me more about the program. I knew it would be a great experience."

Kattus and Jennings are two of the more than 500 pro football players who have spent one offseason in the NFL's Career Internship Program, sponsored jointly by the NFL and a variety of participating corporations.

"It's a pretty frightening thing to finish your career, put together a résumé, and read nothing on it but football," says Jennings, whose seven-year career with the Bengals reached its peak in Super Bowl XXIII, when he returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown against the 49ers.

"I didn't know if I wanted to work for Reebok," Jennings says. "I looked at the internship as a chance to take a look at Reebok and also a chance for people at the company to interview me."

Jennings not only went on to work for Reebok, he also was Midwest Salesman of the Year in 1993, and he recently earned a promotion to sales manager.

Kattus, buoyed by his business experience, now owns Kattus Pro Team Sports, Inc., a multimillion-dollar sporting goods store in Cincinnati that specializes in team uniforms.

"People always ask me if I miss playing," Kattus says. "And, of course, you miss some aspects of football, like the camaraderie. But my business has turned out to be one of the most challenging things I've ever done. I've spent a lot of hours working here. But it's also been very rewarding. The internship program was really helpful."

The Career Internship Program is one of four league programs designed to help players succeed in their post-football lives. "The league was concerned about players' lives off the field after they'd finished their careers," says Dr. Lem Burnham, the NFL's Director of Player Programs.

Along with the Career Internship Program, the league sponsors a Family Assistance Program, which helps players find counseling for personal problems; a Financial Education Program, which educates players about investment opportunities; and a Continuing Education Program, which helps players and wives complete their college degrees.

The programs, instituted in 1991, flourished with the hiring of Burnham, a former defensive end with the Philadelphia Eagles. After retiring from football in 1981, Burnham earned his Ph.D. in psychology and went on to work as club psychologist for several pro sports franchises, including the Eagles, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Philadelphia 76ers.

All of the Player Programs have been successful, but none more so than the Career Internship Program, which has grown from 31 players its first year to more than 100 annually today.

As much as the program does for players—giving them on-the-job experience and business contacts—it may help the corporations even more.

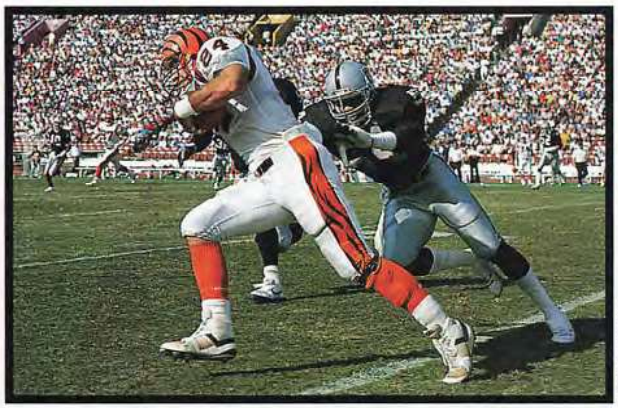
"Corporate leaders recognize that competitiveness is an asset in the workplace," Burnham says. "Competition does not mean just colliding at the line of scrimmage. It means setting goals, working as a team, and caring about doing well."

Few persons are more competitive or team-oriented than NFL players. They are perfect candidates for jobs in the corporate marketplace. Approximately 45 companies have taken part in the program since its inception, including Bank of America, Cadillac, McDonald's, and Sprint.

The internship program at Reebok begins with a three-day orientation that stresses skills required on the job. Interns attend management meetings, accompany salesmen on sales presentations, or work in other parts of the company. Kattus, for example, spent some of his time studying the placement and presentation of Reebok shoes in retail outlets in the Cincinnati area.

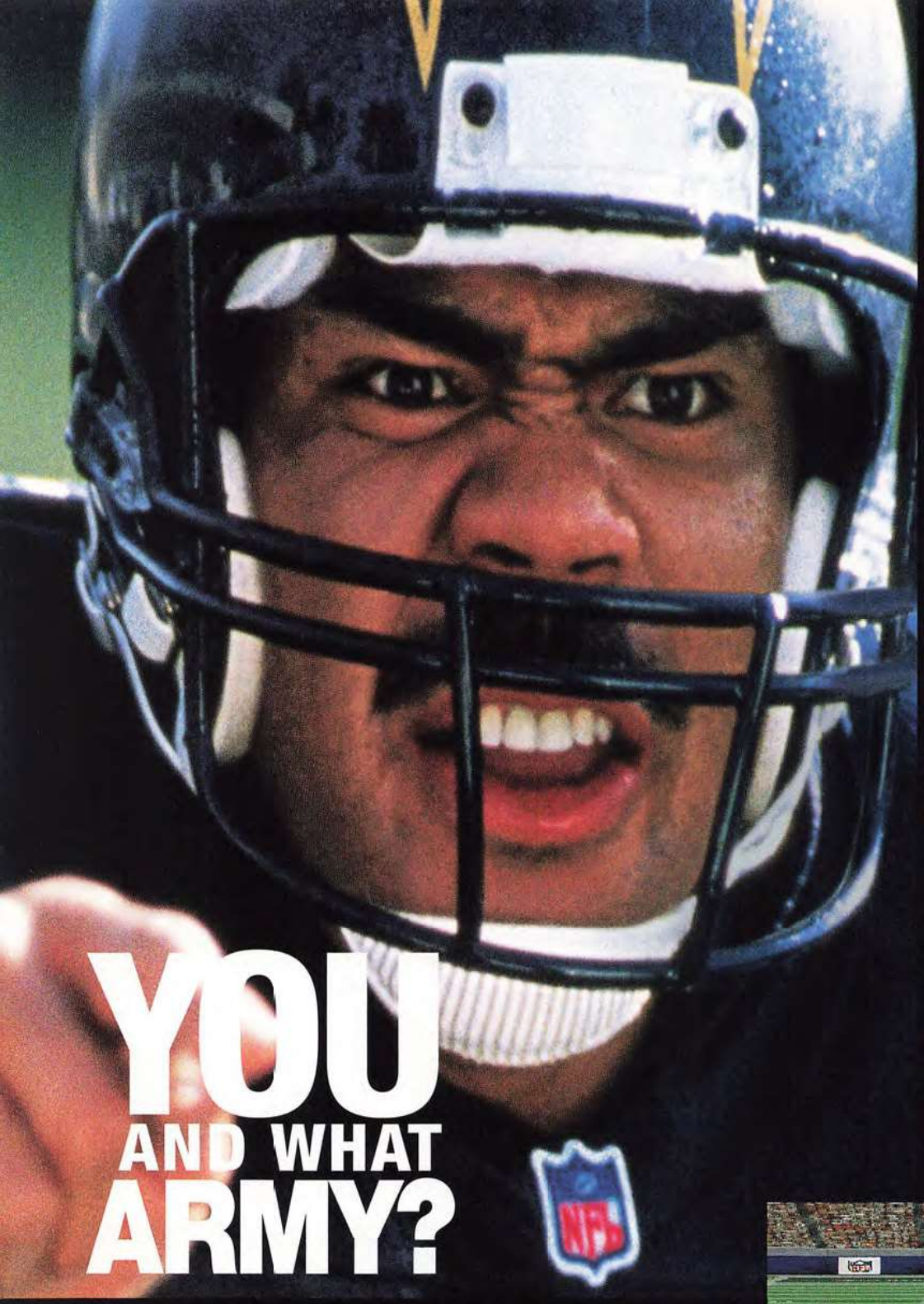
At the end of the 10-week program, all participants give a presentation that explains what they did and what they learned. "The most important thing players learn is problem-solving, which is applicable wherever they end up working," says Kirk Dixon, Reebok's director of training and development. "They reflect on what they've done and what they'd do differently. That's the key to learning anything."

Most interns discover that the skills they have developed as part of a football team also will serve them well in the corporate world. There will be life after football, and it can be just as challenging.



PETER BROUILLET

When Eric Kattus had caught his last pass, he was prepared for a second career.



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re-play week 1 '96

Deja Vu, J.J.

Jimmy Johnson was back. And nothing had changed: He still was winning.

The coach who left Dallas in early 1994, after guiding the Cowboys to victories in Super Bowls XXVII and XXVIII, made his regular-season debut in Miami, and enjoyed a 24-10 victory over New England.

Miami controlled the ball for 36 minutes, forced 4 turnovers, sacked Drew Bledsoe 4 times, and held Curtis Martin to 23 rushing yards. Miami rookie Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 115 yards and a touchdown.

"Our owner Wayne Huizenga gave me a game ball," Johnson said. "It meant more to me than any other game ball I've ever received."

Panthers sacked Jeff George.

JOE ROBBINS

Not-So-Super Starts

Seven months before, Dallas and Pittsburgh played in Super Bowl XXX.

In the first week of the 1996 season, both teams lost and neither was able to score a touchdown.

The Super Bowl-champion Cowboys, playing without Pro Bowl wide receiver Michael Irvin (suspended) and Pro Bowl tight end Jay Novacek (injured), produced only a pair of field goals by Chris Boniol and were surprised 22-6 by the Bears.

Chicago took the lead for good with a pair of trick plays in the second quarter. Taking the ball on a reverse, wide receiver Curtis Conway threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to running back Raymont Harris. Harris also caught a 47-yard pass from punter Todd Sauerbrun to set up a field goal.

In Jacksonville, Mark Brunell passed for 2 touchdowns and rushed for 41 yards to lead the second-year Jaguars to a 24-9 surprise of the Steelers.

There was even worse news for Pittsburgh: Pro Bowl linebacker Greg Lloyd suffered a torn tendon in his left knee and was lost for the season.

Brett Favre

CLIFF MCBRIDE

Brett's Back

In 1995, Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre was the NFL's most valuable player, leading the league with 38 touchdown passes.

However, in May, Favre announced his addiction to prescription pain killers and voluntarily committed himself to 45 days of rehabilitation.

Wiping away any trace of uncertainty on Kickoff '96 weekend, Favre threw 4 touchdown passes, including 3 to tight end Keith Jackson, in the Packers' 34-3 rout of Tampa Bay.

Happy Homecoming

The NFL returned to Baltimore for the first time since 1983. After a memorable reunion of ex-Baltimore Colts players and fans in Memorial Stadium, the new Baltimore Ravens (formerly the Cleveland Browns) rallied to beat the Raiders 19-14.

The Ravens rallied.

LOUIS DELUCA

The victory provided a measure of satisfaction for new coach Ted Marchibroda, who was not retained by Indianapolis after coaching the Colts to within one play of Super Bowl XXX. Marchibroda, no stranger to Memorial Stadium, guided the Colts from 1975-79.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 19, Oakland 14
Denver 31, N.Y. Jets 6
Jacksonville 24, Pittsburgh 9
Kansas City 20, **Houston** 19
Miami 24, New England 10
San Diego 29, Seattle 7

NFC
Carolina 29, Atlanta 6
Chicago 22, Dallas 6
Green Bay 34, **Tampa Bay** 3
San Francisco 27, New Orleans 11
Minnesota 17, Detroit 13
Philadelphia 17, **Washington** 14

INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 23, **N.Y. Giants** 20 (OT)
Indianapolis 20, Arizona 13
St. Louis 26, Cincinnati 16
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Carolina Panthers, who won an expansion-record seven games in 1995, looked even stronger in the new season's first weekend. Kerry Collins fired 2 touchdown passes, John Kasay kicked 5 field goals, and the defense sacked Jeff George 7 times, as the Panthers inaugurated Charlotte's new Ericsson Stadium with a 29-6 rout of Atlanta...In 1995, Lindy Infante and Vince Tobin were the Colts' offensive and defensive coordinators, respectively. On opening day, Infante, now the head coach of the Colts, outlasted Tobin, now the head coach of the Cardinals, 20-13. Jim Harbaugh completed only 16 passes, but 2 went for touchdowns.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	1	0	0	Baltimore	1	0	0	Denver	1	0	0	Philadelphia	1	0	0	Chicago	1	0	0	Carolina	1	0	0
Indianapolis	1	0	0	Jacksonville	1	0	0	Kansas City	1	0	0	Arizona	0	1	0	Green Bay	1	0	0	St. Louis	1	0	0
Miami	1	0	0	Cincinnati	0	1	0	San Diego	1	0	0	Dallas	0	1	0	Minnesota	1	0	0	San Francisco	1	0	0
New England	0	1	0	Houston	0	1	0	Oakland	0	1	0	N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	Detroit	0	1	0	Atlanta	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	Pittsburgh	0	1	0	Seattle	0	1	0	Washington	0	1	0	Tampa Bay	0	1	0	New Orleans	0	1	0

re-play week 2 '96

Pittsburgh got a big boost from veteran quarterback Mike Tomczak, who made only his eighth start in four years and completed 18 of 25 passes for 2 touchdowns in the Steelers' 31-17 victory over the Ravens. On the game's second play, Steelers cornerback Rod Woodson returned Vinny Testaverde's first pass 43 yards for a touchdown ...In the Broncos' 30-20 victory over Seattle, Denver linebacker Bill Romanowski set up 2 field goals with a pair of fumble recoveries. Romanowski also intercepted a pass... Houston rookie Eddie George rushed for 143 yards and a touchdown to help the Oilers outscore the Jaguars 34-27 ...The Raiders' defeat in Kansas City was their eighth regular-season loss in a row.

A Good Start

Going into his fifth year in the league, Minnesota quarterback Brad Johnson had no NFL starts and no touchdown passes. In Minnesota's final preseason game, he threw 4 interceptions.

Yet, when starter Warren Moon missed most of the first game and the entire second game with ankle, foot, and toe injuries, Johnson came off the bench and led the Vikings to their first 2-0 record since 1987.

In week 1, the 27-year-old Johnson beat the Lions 17-13 on a 31-yard touchdown pass to Cris Carter with 1:06 left.

In week 2, in the first start of his career, Johnson passed for 275 yards and 2 touchdowns in a 23-17 victory over the Falcons.

In two games, Johnson had a 103.4 passer rating, second to Green Bay's Brett Favre in the NFC.

BILL AMATUCCI

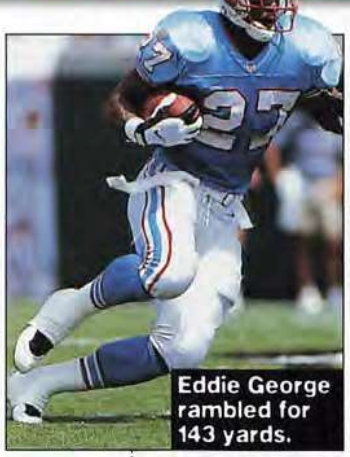
Rod Woodson

Deja Vu, Sans Kiss, in K.C.

In 1995, Chiefs cornerback James Hasty returned an interception 64 yards for a touchdown to give his team a 23-17 overtime victory over the Raiders.

He was a little embarrassed, however, when coach Marty Schottenheimer rewarded him with a kiss.

BERNIE NUÑEZ



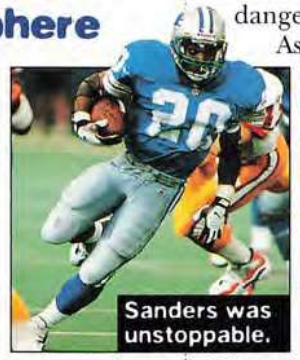
Eddie George rambled for 143 yards.

In week 2 of 1996, Hasty scooped up a fumble and raced 80 yards for the touchdown that gave the Chiefs a 14-0 lead. They went on to win 19-3, their seventh victory in a row over the Raiders.

This time, the coach just shook his hand.

NFC Central Stratosphere

Two weeks into the season, two NFC Central stars, Green Bay's Brett Favre and Detroit's Barry Sanders, were off to rocket-like starts.



Sanders was unstoppable.

MICHAEL CONROY

Favre passed for 7 touchdowns while leading the Packers to their first 2-0 record since 1982.

Three of Favre's scoring passes in a 39-13 victory over the Eagles in week 2 included a pair to Robert Brooks. As is his colorful custom, Brooks vaulted into the stands to embrace the fans after each touchdown.

Sanders, meanwhile, led the league in rushing. After dashing for 163 yards in an opening loss to Minnesota and 125 in a 21-6 victory over Tampa Bay, he had gained 288 yards, averaging 6.5 per carry.

Over in a Flash

Football players are used to competing in heat, cold, rain, snow–even gale-force winds. But lightning?

The Colts-Jets game at Giants Stadium was delayed for 32 minutes in the fourth quarter when a severe thunderstorm, courtesy of Hurricane Fran, swept over the stadium complete with jagged streaks of lightning.

"I thought [stopping the game] was a good call," said Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh, who threw for a touchdown and ran for another to help his team to a 21-7 victory. "It was getting dangerous."

As far as researchers could tell, it was only the second delay in a regular-season game in modern history.

In December, 1960, a blizzard held up the start of the Giants-Redskins game in Washington for 40 minutes. When the blizzard ended, there was so much snow on the tarp that the two teams played the game without removing it.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 17, New England 10
Denver 30, **Seattle** 20
Houston 34, **Jacksonville** 27
Indianapolis 21, **N.Y. Jets** 7
Kansas City 19, Oakland 3
Pittsburgh 31, Baltimore 17
San Diego 27, Cincinnati 14
NFC
Carolina 22, **New Orleans** 20
Dallas 27, N.Y. Giants 0
Detroit 21, Tampa Bay 6
Green Bay 39, Philadelphia 13
Minnesota 23, **Atlanta** 17
San Francisco 34, St. Louis 0
Washington 10, Chicago 3
INTERCONFERENCE
Miami 38, **Arizona** 10
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	2	0	0	Baltimore	1	1	0	Denver	2	0	0	Dallas	1	1	0	Green Bay	2	0	0	Carolina	2	0	0
Indianapolis	2	0	0	Houston	1	1	0	Kansas City	2	0	0	Philadelphia	1	1	0	Minnesota	2	0	0	San Francisco	2	0	0
Miami	2	0	0	Jacksonville	1	1	0	San Diego	2	0	0	Washington	1	1	0	Chicago	1	1	0	St. Louis	1	1	0
New England	0	2	0	Pittsburgh	1	1	0	Oakland	0	2	0	Arizona	0	2	0	Detroit	1	1	0	Atlanta	0	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	Cincinnati	0	2	0	Seattle	0	2	0	N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	Tampa Bay	0	2	0	New Orleans	0	2	0

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1997

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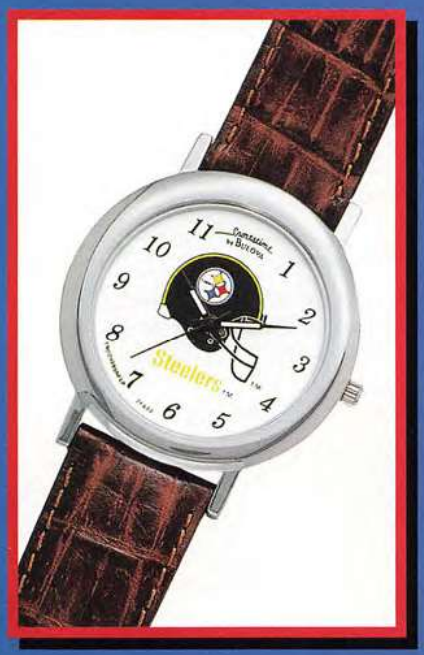

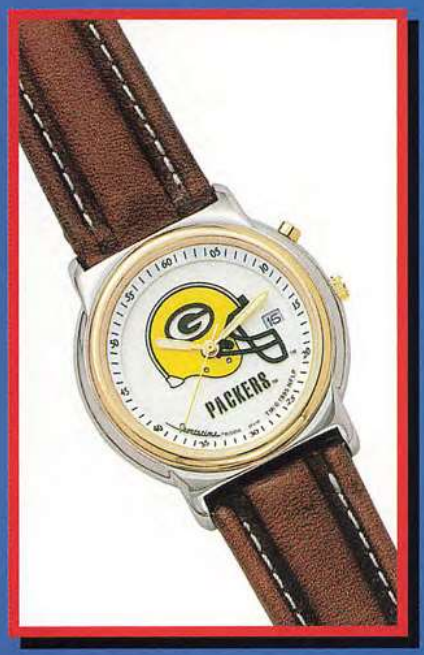

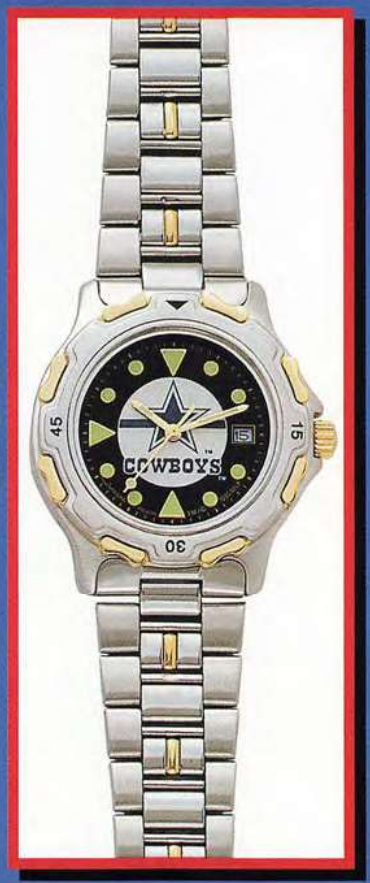

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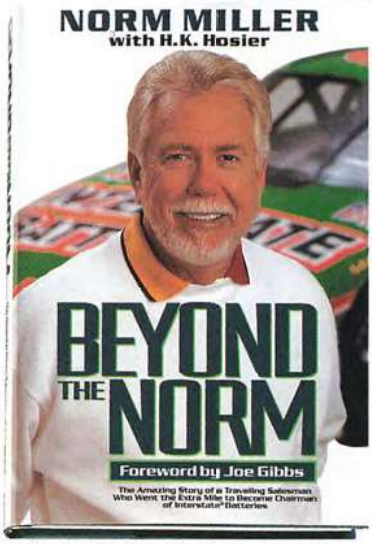
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Foreword by Joe Gibbs
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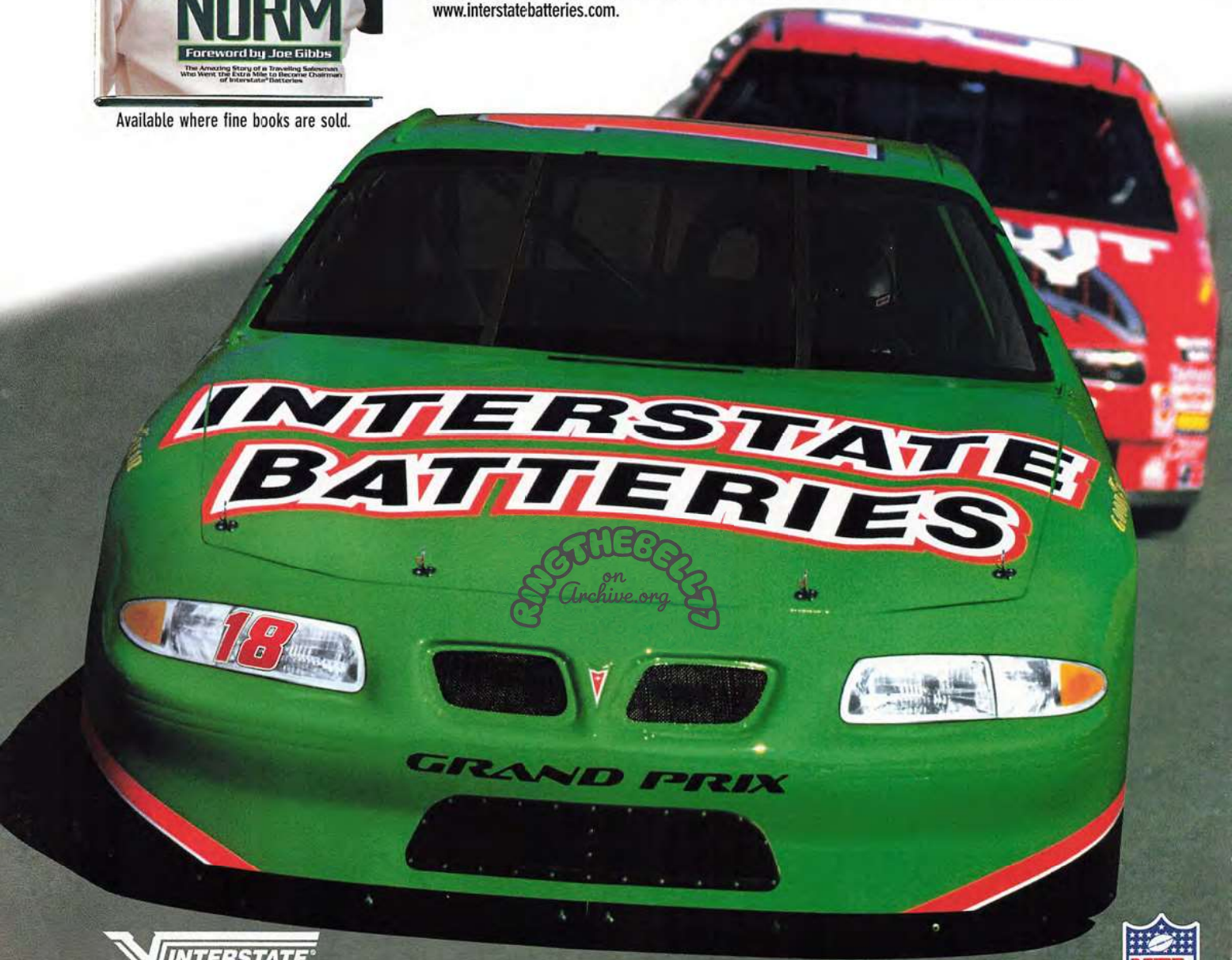

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re-play week 3 '96

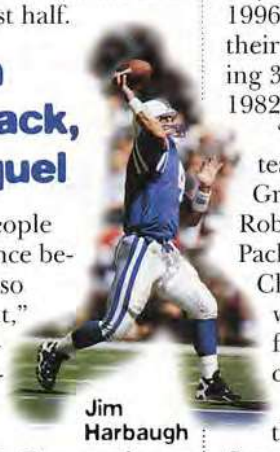
Black-and-Gold Mondays

Most people consider Monday a bad day. Not Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher.

On a rainy night in Pittsburgh, the Steelers ran their Monday night record in Cowher's tenure to 8-1, including 6-0 at home, handing the Bills their first loss, 24-6. It was Pittsburgh's fourth victory in a row over Buffalo, all in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers intercepted Jim Kelly 4 times, including safety Carnell Lake's 47-yard touchdown return on the last play of the first half.

Captain Comeback, the Sequel



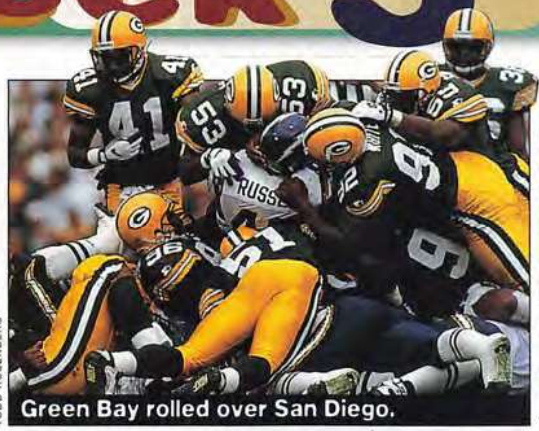
Jim Harbaugh

JAMES SMITH

"Not many people gave us a chance because we had so many guys out," Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh said. "This might be the best win I've ever been associated with."

Harbaugh was talking about the unbeaten Colts' 25-24 victory at Dallas, a game in which they overcame the loss of six injured starters, and rallied from a 21-3 second-quarter deficit.

Harbaugh, who earned the nickname "Captain Comeback" with Indianapolis in 1995, threw 2 touchdown passes in a 19-point rally and later marched his team to Cary Blanchard's game-winning, 43-yard field goal with 51 seconds left.



TODD ROSENBERG

Green Bay rolled over San Diego.

The offense continued to be potent, too. Brett Favre, the NFL's leading passer, fired touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman, William Henderson, and Keith Jackson.

No Questions, the Pack is Back

No team earns a playoff bid in September, but it was hard not to be impressed by Green Bay's first three games of 1996. The Packers outscored their opponents 115-26 in going 3-0 for the first time since 1982.

"It's really scary what this team is capable of doing," Green Bay safety Eugene Robinson said, after the Packers overwhelmed the Chargers 42-10. It was the worst loss in Bobby Ross's five years as San Diego coach.

"You hear a lot about their offense, but their defense has a very good front four," Ross said. "They can put pressure on the passer, and their linebackers can run extremely well."

The Packers sacked Stan Humphries and Sean Salisbury a total of 5 times, including 2 sacks each by defensive ends Reggie White and Sean Jones. Safety LeRoy Butler had 2 interceptions, returning the second 90 yards for a touchdown. In 1995, the Packers recovered 16 opponent turnovers. In three games in 1996, they had 13.

Double-Duty Dale

If Deion Sanders can do it, why not Dale Carter?

Sanders, Dallas's Pro Bowl cornerback, had been seeing double duty at wide receiver, and, in week 3, Carter, the Chiefs' Pro Bowl cornerback, did the same.

With injuries having depleted Kansas City's receiving corps, Carter caught the first 3 passes of his career, including a 46-yard touchdown, in the unbeaten Chiefs' 35-17 victory over Seattle.

"I didn't know what to expect," Carter said. "I just went out there and ran fast."

BERNIE NUÑEZ

Ricky Watters

SCORES

AFC
Houston 29, Baltimore 13
Kansas City 35, **Seattle** 17
Miami 36, N.Y. Jets 27
Oakland 17, Jacksonville 3
Pittsburgh 24, Buffalo 6
NFC
Minnesota 20, **Chicago** 14
Philadelphia 24, Detroit 17
Washington 31, **N.Y. Giants** 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Cincinnati 30, New Orleans 15
Denver 27, Tampa Bay 23
Green Bay 42, San Diego 10
Indianapolis 25, **Dallas** 24
New England 31, Arizona 0
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Six teams—Denver, Indianapolis, Kansas City, and Miami in the AFC and Green Bay and Minnesota in the NFC—started 3-0 for only the fifth time in NFL history. Coincidentally, those six teams would be matched up in week 4...The Raiders snapped their eight-game losing streak when defensive tackle Jerry Ball returned an interception 66 yards for a touchdown in a 17-3 victory over Jacksonville... Ricky Watters rushed for 153 yards and caught 6 passes for 57 more as the Eagles stopped the Lions 24-17... Marcus Allen's 2 short scoring runs against Seattle gave the Chiefs' running back 127 career touchdowns, passing Jim Brown and placing him second to Jerry Rice (157).

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Indianapolis	3	0	0	Houston	2	1	0	Denver	3	0	0	Philadelphia	2	1	0	Green Bay	3	0	0	Carolina	2	0	0
Miami	3	0	0	Pittsburgh	2	1	0	Kansas City	3	0	0	Washington	2	1	0	Minnesota	3	0	0	San Francisco	2	0	0
Buffalo	2	1	0	Baltimore	1	2	0	San Diego	2	1	0	Dallas	1	2	0	Chicago	1	2	0	St. Louis	1	1	0
New England	1	2	0	Cincinnati	1	2	0	Oakland	1	2	0	Arizona	0	3	0	Detroit	1	2	0	Atlanta	0	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0	Jacksonville	1	2	0	Seattle	0	3	0	N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	Tampa Bay	0	3	0	New Orleans	0	3	0

re-play week 4 '96

With their loss to the Bills, the defending Super Bowl-champion Cowboys fell to 1-3. No team has won the Super Bowl after such a start...Miami suffered a crippling blow in its loss to the Colts when quarterback Dan Marino left the game in the first quarter with a broken ankle. The Dolphins feared he could miss up to six weeks... Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries threw 3 touchdown passes in a span covering nine plays and 3:05 of the first quarter to spark San Diego to a 40-34 victory over the Raiders...For the record, the Jets had "home-field advantage" in their 13-6 loss to the Giants at Giants Stadium. It was the fifth time the two clubs had played since the Jets also made Giants Stadium their home in 1984.

Ex's and O's

Former Super Bowl rivals Dallas and Buffalo (XXVII and XXVIII) met in week 4, but the Bills' 10-7 victory over the Cowboys was overshadowed by showdowns among the league's unbeaten teams.

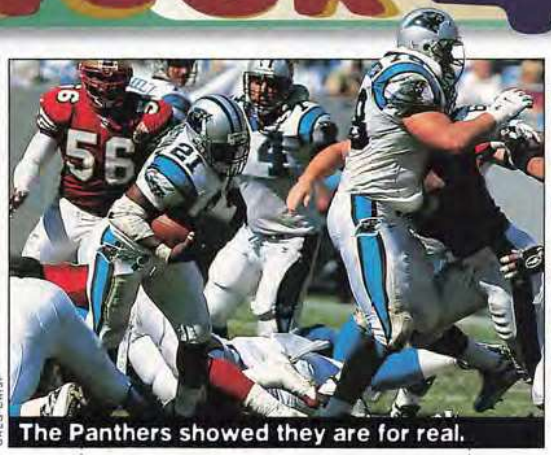
Through three weeks, eight teams—the most since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970—had no blemishes on their records, and the schedule had them squaring off in week 4. The surprising Carolina Panthers beat San Francisco 23-7, Indianapolis edged Miami 10-6, Kansas City toppled Denver 17-14, and Minnesota stunned Green Bay 30-21.

Seven teams, another record since the merger, were winless heading into week 4, and six played each other: Arizona beat New Orleans 28-14, the New York Giants beat the New York Jets 13-6, and Seattle rallied past Tampa Bay 17-13.

Norse Code

Dissecting the Vikings' surprising 4-0 start was not difficult—the key was the fourth quarter. Minnesota interrupted the Packers' early-season roll with a 30-21 victory at the Metrodome after trailing 21-17 through three quarters. That marked the fourth time the Vikings had rallied to win in the final period:

Opponent	After Three Quarters	Final Score
Detroit	Lions 10-7	Vikings 17-13
Atlanta	Falcons 17-10	Vikings 23-17
Chicago	Tied 14-14	Vikings 20-14
Green Bay	Packers 21-17	Vikings 30-21



GREG CRISP

The Panthers showed they are for real.

Cat Skills

Carolina, heretofore the subject of a nice story about an expansion team doing well, officially emerged as a playoff contender by beating the 49ers and taking over sole possession of first place in the NFC West.

The Panthers' victory particularly was remarkable for its thoroughness. San Francisco entered the game having allowed a league-low 168 total yards per game, but Carolina had surpassed that by its third possession, en route to building a 17-0 lead. Carolina finished with 389 yards.

Defensively, the Panthers throttled San Francisco's high-powered attack, limiting the 49ers to 66 total yards in the first half and a lone third-quarter touchdown.

Head First

Indianapolis held off Miami on Monday night thanks to a gutty play by quarterback Jim Harbaugh.

With the Colts nursing a four-point lead in the fourth quarter, running back Zack Crockett fumbled in Indianapolis territory. Harbaugh and a Dolphins defender banged helmets as they dived for the loose ball. It took a while for officials to sort things out after the ensuing scramble, but Harbaugh emerged with the ball. He then dropped to a knee and had to be replaced for one play by Paul Justin.

"That's Jimmy," Colts coach Lindy Infante said. "Determined, gutsy, and, like everyone else out there, he spent himself."

ALLEN KEE

Dale Carter (34) saved the day.

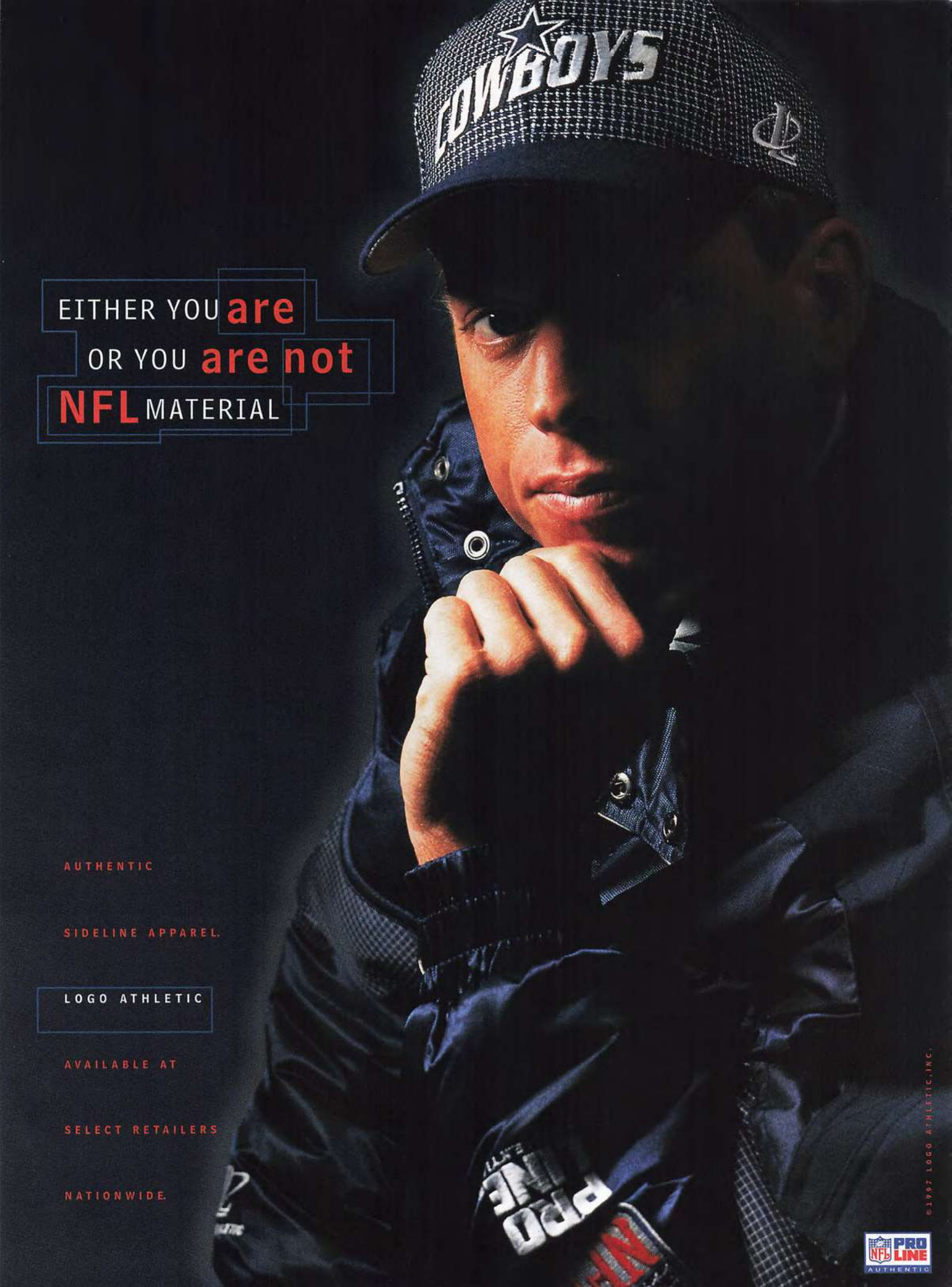
Not This Time

Denver's John Elway had engineered six game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime against the Chiefs in his career. But he was intercepted by Dale Carter at Kansas City's 5-yard line with 2:55 left in the Chiefs' 17-14 victory. Elway never got the ball back as Kansas City ran out the clock.

SCORES

AFC
Indianapolis 10, Miami 6
Kansas City 17, Denver 14
New England 28, Jacksonville 25 (OT)
San Diego 40, **Oakland** 34
NFC
Arizona 28, **New Orleans** 14
Carolina 23, San Francisco 7
Detroit 35, Chicago 16
Minnesota 30, Green Bay 21
Philadelphia 33, **Atlanta** 18
Washington 17, **St. Louis** 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 10, Dallas 7
N.Y. Giants 13, **N.Y. Jets** 6
Seattle 17, **Tampa Bay** 13
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Indianapolis	4	0	0	Houston	2	1	0	Kansas City	4	0	0	Philadelphia	3	1	0	Minnesota	4	0	0	Carolina	3	0	0
Buffalo	3	1	0	Pittsburgh	2	1	0	Denver	3	1	0	Washington	3	1	0	Green Bay	3	1	0	San Francisco	2	1	0
Miami	3	1	0	Baltimore	1	2	0	San Diego	3	1	0	Arizona	1	3	0	Detroit	2	2	0	St. Louis	1	2	0
New England	2	2	0	Cincinnati	1	2	0	Oakland	1	3	0	Dallas	1	3	0	Chicago	1	3	0	Atlanta	0	3	0
N.Y. Jets	0	4	0	Jacksonville	1	3	0	Seattle	1	3	0	N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	Tampa Bay	0	4	0	New Orleans	0	4	0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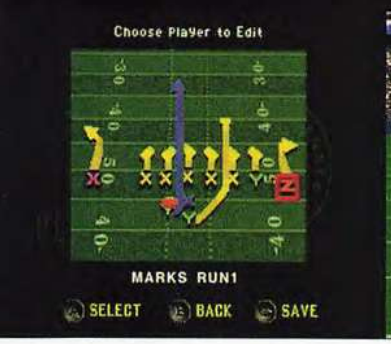

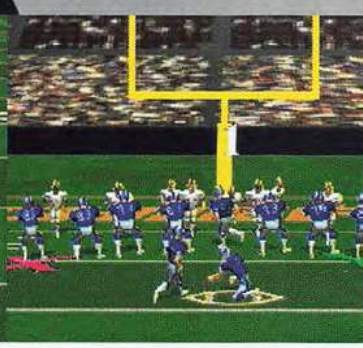

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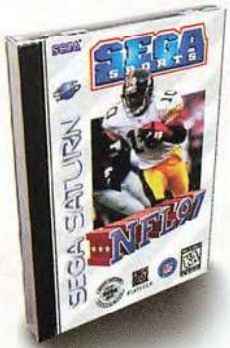

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re-play week 5 '96

Early Knockout

Pittsburgh and Houston fought for the AFC Central Division lead in a game marred by skirmishes and three ejections. In the end, the Steelers were left standing 30-16.

Pittsburgh scored 17 points in the first 7:36, then handed the ball to Jerome Bettis, who rushed for 115 yards on 29 carries.

"Maybe our emotions were running a little too high at the beginning of the game," Oilers coach Jeff Fisher said. "We expected to play with Pittsburgh physically, we just beat ourselves mentally."

Toe to toe in Pittsburgh

GREG CRISP

Herschel's Return

Herschel Walker

GREG CRISP

Since returning to Dallas at the start of this season, Herschel Walker had played a limited role for the Cowboys. But Walker gave Dallas the spark it desperately needed in Philadelphia in a Monday night game.

The Cowboys, 1-3 and staring up at the rest of the NFC East, fell behind the Eagles 10-0 in the first quarter before Walker returned a kickoff 49 yards to Philadelphia's 44-yard line. That led to Troy Aikman's 5-yard touchdown pass to Eric Bjornson and ignited a 20-point outburst that carried Dallas to a 20-10 halftime lead. The Cowboys held on to win 23-19. "A big, big play," Dallas coach Barry Switzer said of Walker's kickoff return.

Philadelphia lost quarterback Rodney Peete to a season-ending knee injury in the second quarter.

Last to First

NFL statistics showed the Chargers were last in the league in total defense entering their game against the 4-0 Chiefs.

But San Diego bottled up Kansas City's running game and cut off Steve Bono at the pass in a 22-19 victory that lifted the Chargers into a three-way tie atop the AFC West.

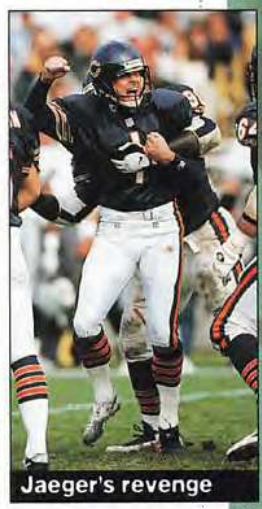
Capital Offense

The Redskins won three of their first four games behind a stifling defense that permitted only 23 points in a span of 14 quarters. But they got their offense going in week 5, gaining a season-high 396 total yards in a 31-16 victory over the winless Jets. That moved Washington into sole possession of first place in the NFC Eastern Division for the first time since 1991.

Give and Take

Green Bay bounced back from its surprise loss to the Vikings in week 4 by punishing the Seahawks 31-10. Brett Favre passed for 4 touchdowns, including 2 to Antonio Freeman, but the real difference was on defense. The Packers forced 5 turnovers that led to 24 points.

Turnovers, in fact, were the most telling statistic in week 5. Cincinnati, which forced 3 turnovers while committing just 1 in a 14-10 defeat to Denver, was the only team to lose a game while winning the turnover battle.



Jaeger's revenge

JAMES SMITH

SCORES

AFC
Denver 14, **Cincinnati** 10
Pittsburgh 30, Houston 16
San Diego 22, Kansas City 19
NFC
Arizona 31, St. Louis 28 (OT)
Dallas 23, **Philadelphia** 19
Detroit 27, **Tampa Bay** 0
N.Y. Giants 15, Minnesota 10
San Francisco 39, Atlanta 17
INTERCONFERENCE
Baltimore 17, New Orleans 10
Chicago 19, Oakland 17
Green Bay 31, **Seattle** 10
Jacksonville 24, Carolina 14
Washington 31, N.Y Jets 16
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

In Chicago, the Bears ended a three-game losing streak by rallying from a 17-3 deficit to beat the Raiders 19-17. Jeff Jaeger, cut loose by Oakland prior to the start of the regular season, kicked 4 field goals against his former teammates, including the game-winner from 30 yards with 11 seconds left... Minnesota and Carolina suffered their first blemishes of the season, leaving idle Indianapolis as the lone undefeated team. The Giants upset the Vikings 15-10 by controlling the ball for 74 of the game's 121 plays and 37:43 of the game's 60 minutes. Carolina lost to Jacksonville 24-14 in the first regular-season game between the two 1995 expansion teams.

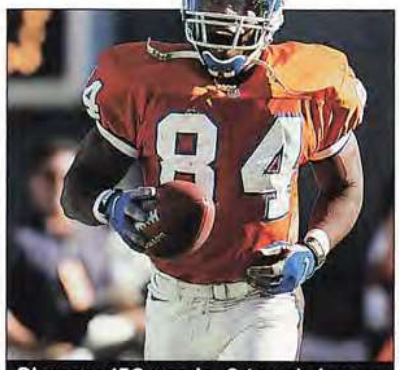
AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Indianapolis	4	0	0	Pittsburgh	3	1	0	Denver	4	1	0	Washington	4	1	0	Green Bay	4	1	0	Carolina	3	1	0
Buffalo	3	1	0	Baltimore	2	2	0	Kansas City	4	1	0	Philadelphia	3	2	0	Minnesota	4	1	0	San Francisco	3	1	0
Miami	3	1	0	Houston	2	2	0	San Diego	4	1	0	Arizona	2	3	0	Detroit	3	2	0	St. Louis	1	3	0
New England	2	2	0	Jacksonville	2	3	0	Oakland	1	4	0	Dallas	2	3	0	Chicago	2	3	0	Atlanta	0	4	0
N.Y. Jets	0	5	0	Cincinnati	1	3	0	Seattle	1	4	0	N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	Tampa Bay	0	5	0	New Orleans	0	5	0

re-play week 6 '96

The 49ers and Rams once had one of the most heated rivalries in the NFL. Now it is one of the most lopsided. Elvis Grbac passed for 222 yards and 3 touchdowns as San Francisco defeated St. Louis 28-11, the 49ers' second victory over the Rams this season and the thirteenth in a row since 1990...Al Del Greco's 49-yard field goal 7:07 into overtime lifted the Oilers past the Bengals 30-27. Cincinnati had a chance to win on the final play of regulation, but Doug Pelfrey's 40-yard field-goal attempt was wide...The Saints won for the first time, beating Jacksonville 17-13 when Jim Everett threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Torrance Small with 1:45 remaining. That left Atlanta, the Jets, and Tampa Bay as the NFL's winless teams.

Hurricane Warning

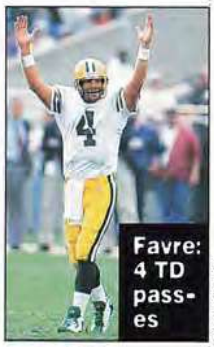
Former University of Miami head coaches Dennis Erickson and Jimmy Johnson, plus a dozen former Hurricane stars, were on the rain-soaked field when Seattle played at Miami. Erickson's Seahawks stunned Johnson's Dolphins 22-15 when Brian Blades (a Hurricane alumnus, of course) caught a pass from John Friesz and turned it into an 80-yard touchdown with 2:03 to play.



Sharpe: 153 yards, 3 touchdowns

DEE WELSOH

The Week of the QB



Favre: 4 TD passes

DAVID STLUKA

Brett Favre threw 4 touchdown passes in the Packers' 37-6 rout of the Bears. That gave Favre 20 touchdown passes in the first six weeks.

Aside from Favre, however, quarterbacks had been strangely subdued in 1996. Through five weeks, there had been only eight 300-yard passing games. In 1995, there were nearly five per week. Passing yards were off from 220.8 yards per team per game in 1995 to only 195.8 in 1996.

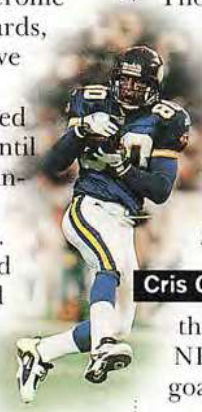
NFL quarterbacks emerged from their funk en masse in week 6, however, with six breaking the 300-yard barrier (led by Vinny Testaverde's 353 in the Ravens' loss to the Patriots) and output increasing by nearly 25 yards per team.

AFC Spotlight

With six NFC teams (including the entire Eastern Division) taking the week off, the marquee matchups in week 6 were in the AFC, where Pittsburgh played at Kansas City and Denver played host to San Diego.

The Steelers overpowered the Chiefs 17-7 as Jerome Bettis ran for 103 yards, his fourth consecutive 100-yard game.

The Broncos trailed the Chargers 17-0 until John Elway and Shannon Sharpe started making connections. The quarterback and his tight end teamed 13 times for 153 yards and 3 touchdowns to propel Denver into first place in the AFC West.



Cris Carter

MARK BRETTINGER

And Then There Were None

Indianapolis, the league's lone unbeaten team entering week 6, lost to Buffalo in overtime 16-13.

The Bills trailed 13-10 until backup quarterback Todd Collins, playing for injured Jim Kelly, directed a 58-yard drive with no time outs remaining that culminated in Steve Christie's 37-yard field goal with 15 seconds left in regulation. Christie's 39-yard field goal 9:22 into the extra session won it.

It was a departure from the usual script for Indianapolis, which has made a habit of winning close games.

"You live by the sword, you die by the sword," Colts defensive tackle Tony Siragusa said.

Milestones

Minnesota's Cris Carter became the fourteenth player in NFL history to catch 600 passes in a career. Carter had 2 touchdown receptions as the Vikings beat the Panthers 14-12...Buffalo's Thurman Thomas joined an elite group of 10 others with 10,000 career rushing yards. Thomas has 307 yards this season for a total of 10,136...In 1980, Nick Lowery replaced 13-year veteran Jan Stenerud as the Chiefs' kicker. This week Lowery, now with the Jets, equaled Stenerud's NFL record for career field goals (373).

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 16, Indianapolis 13 (OT)
Denver 28, San Diego 17
Houston 30, **Cincinnati** 27 (OT)
New England 46, **Baltimore** 38
Oakland 34, **N.Y. Jets** 13
Pittsburgh 17, **Kansas City** 7
Seattle 22, **Miami** 15
NFC
Detroit 28, Atlanta 24
Green Bay 37, **Chicago** 6
Minnesota 14, Carolina 12
San Francisco 28, **St. Louis** 11
INTERCONFERENCE
New Orleans 17, Jacksonville 13
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0
Indianapolis	4	1	0
Miami	3	2	0
New England	3	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	6	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	4	1	0
Houston	3	2	0
Baltimore	2	3	0
Jacksonville	2	4	0
Cincinnati	1	4	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	5	1	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
San Diego	4	2	0
Oakland	2	4	0
Seattle	2	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	4	1	0
Philadelphia	3	2	0
Arizona	2	3	0
Dallas	2	3	0
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	5	1	0
Minnesota	5	1	0
Detroit	4	2	0
Chicago	2	4	0
Tampa Bay	0	5	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	4	1	0
Carolina	3	2	0
St. Louis	1	4	0
New Orleans	1	5	0
Atlanta	0	5	0

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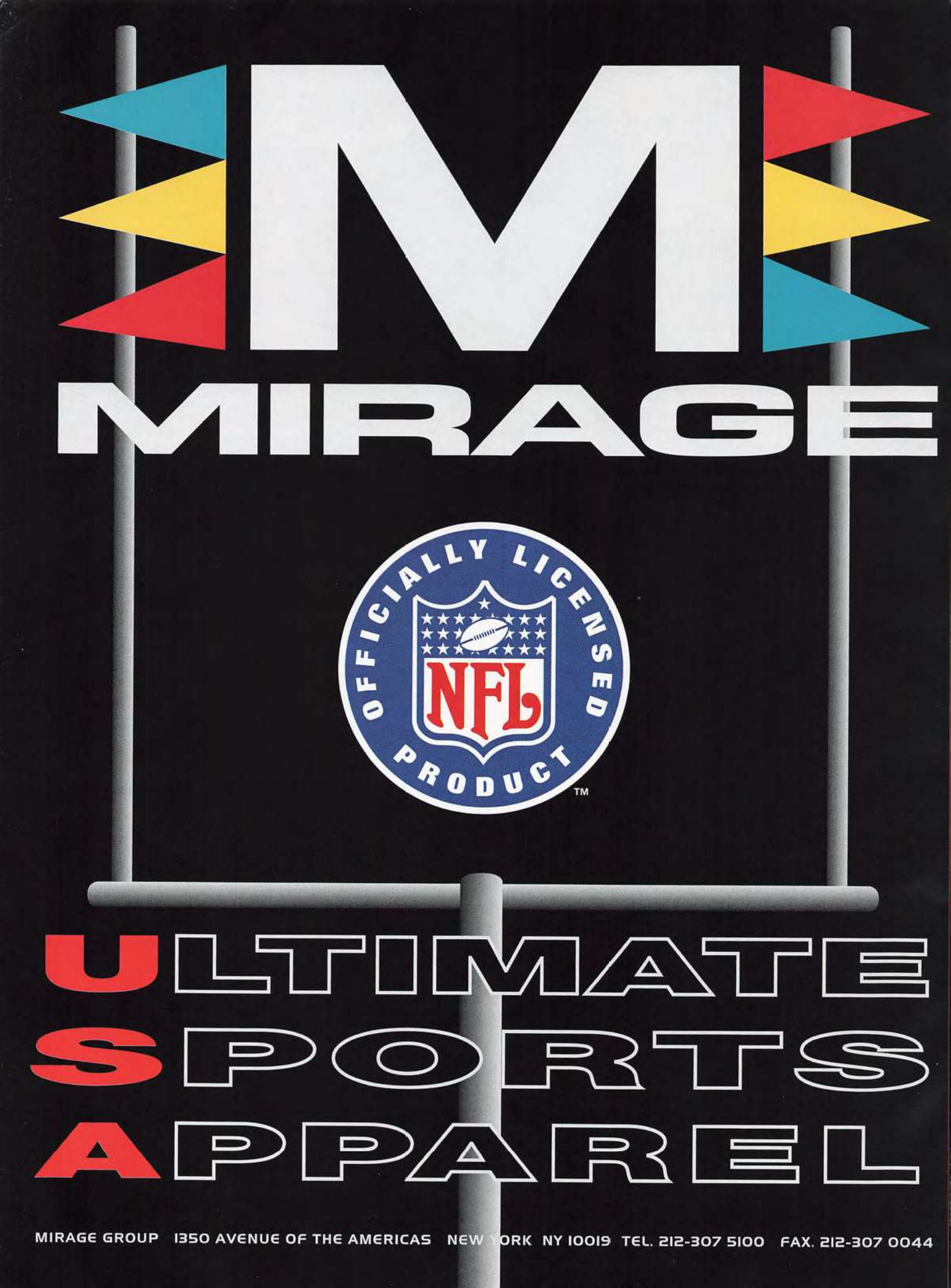
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re-play Week 7 '96

Familiar Foes

Dilfer emerged from his funk.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Buccaneers coach Tony Dungy, the Vikings' defensive coordinator from 1992-95, played host to his old team in week 7, and Tampa Bay ambushed Minnesota 24-13. Trent Dilfer, who entered the game with only 1 touchdown pass in 146 attempts in 1996, threw 3 to give Dungy his first victory as a head coach.

Ted Marchibroda, who guided the Colts to the AFC title game in 1995, took his new team, the Ravens, into Indianapolis. But the Colts spoiled Marchibroda's return with a 26-21 victory. Linebacker Jeff Herrod's 68-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter proved to be the difference.

Plan Beebe

The Packers suffered a severe blow when wide receiver Robert Brooks was lost for the season with a knee injury on the first play of their Monday-night showdown against the 49ers.

So they turned to veteran Don Beebe, who stepped up to catch 11 passes for a career-high 220 yards, as Green Bay outlasted San Francisco 23-20 in overtime. Beebe caught a 59-yard touchdown pass from Brett Favre in the third quarter, then set up Chris Jacke's 53-yard field goal in overtime with a 13-yard reception on third-and-7.

"For me, eleven catches is big," said Beebe, who entered the game with only 7 receptions. "It was fun."

Jacke kicked 5 field goals for the Packers, including one from 31 yards to tie the game with eight seconds left in regulation.

Sibling Rivalry

The Matthews brothers

JIMMY GRIGB

Atlanta's 40-year-old linebacker Clay Matthews, who planned to retire at the season's end, played against his younger brother Bruce, a 35-year-old offensive lineman for the Oilers, for the last time in week 7. Houston won 23-13, but Clay finished with a 12-11 career edge over Bruce.

Still a Battering Ram

Jerome Bettis was traded from St. Louis to Pittsburgh last spring. In the Steelers' 20-10 victory over Cincinnati in week 7, Bettis rushed for 109 yards. It was his fifth consecutive 100-yard game, and it was Pittsburgh's fifth successive victory.

Back in the Saddle

Wide receiver Michael Irvin was back in the lineup, but it was running back Emmitt Smith who returned to form to key Dallas's 17-3 victory over Arizona.

Conspicuously absent from the NFL's top 10 rushing and scoring lists entering the week, Smith carried 21 times for 112 yards and 2 touchdowns against the Cardinals.

So Close, So...

Trailing Miami 14-7, Buffalo had a chance to send the game into overtime after driving to the Dolphins' 2 with 1:55 to play. Then an intentional grounding penalty, an incomplete pass, and a 2-yard run set up fourth-and-goal from the 10. On the next play, Miami cornerback Terrell Buckley stepped in front of Jim Kelly's pass at the 9-yard-line and returned the interception 91 yards for the clinching touchdown.

SCORES

AFC
Indianapolis 26, Baltimore 21
Jacksonville 21, N.Y. Jets 17
Miami 21, **Buffalo** 7
Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 10
NFC
Carolina 45, St. Louis 13
Dallas 17, Arizona 3
Green Bay 23, San Francisco 20 (OT)
New Orleans 27, Chicago 24
Philadelphia 19, **N.Y. Giants** 10
Tampa Bay 24, Minnesota 13
INTERCONFERENCE
Houston 23, **Atlanta** 13
Oakland 37, Detroit 21
Washington 27, **New England** 22
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Redskins won their fifth consecutive game, snapping New England's three-game winning streak 27-22. Washington remained in first place in the NFC Eastern Division, a game ahead of the Eagles (19-10 winners over the Giants)...Jeff Hostetler passed for 4 touchdowns as the Raiders built a 34-0 lead, then held off the Lions 37-21...Ray Zellars rushed for a career-high 174 yards in the Saints' 27-24 victory over the Bears. Doug Brien's 54-yard field goal with 1:44 left won the game...Carolina won for the eighth time in its last nine home games, routing the Rams 45-13... Nick Lowery's 374th career field goal set an NFL record, but the Jets remained winless after falling to the Jaguars 21-17.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Indianapolis	5	1	0	Pittsburgh	5	1	0	Denver	5	1	0	Washington	5	1	0	Green Bay	6	1	0	Carolina	4	2	0
Buffalo	4	2	0	Houston	4	2	0	Kansas City	4	2	0	Philadelphia	4	2	0	Minnesota	5	2	0	San Francisco	4	2	0
Miami	4	2	0	Jacksonville	3	4	0	San Diego	4	2	0	Dallas	3	3	0	Detroit	4	3	0	New Orleans	2	5	0
New England	3	3	0	Baltimore	2	4	0	Oakland	3	4	0	Arizona	2	4	0	Chicago	2	5	0	St. Louis	1	5	0
N.Y. Jets	0	7	0	Cincinnati	1	5	0	Seattle	2	4	0	N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	Tampa Bay	1	5	0	Atlanta	0	6	0

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver's John Elway and Baltimore's Vinny Testaverde combined to pass for 664 yards and 7 touchdowns, but it was Elway's 9-yard touchdown run that secured the Broncos' 45-34 victory...Carolina's 19-7 victory over the Saints gave the Panthers a season sweep of the NFC West at Ericsson Stadium... Coaching Carousel: One day after his team squandered a 21-point lead at San Francisco, Dave Shula was fired as coach of the Bengals and replaced by offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet. The same day, Jim Mora resigned as coach of the Saints in the wake of his team's 2-6 start. He was replaced by linebackers coach Rick Venturi.

re-play Week 8 '96

Young and Restless

San Francisco quarterback Steve Young had missed his team's previous three games with a groin injury. He wasn't about to miss another.

Young was less than 100 percent when he hobbled out to lead San Francisco against Cincinnati, and he left the game in obvious discomfort after the 49ers fell behind 21-0.

But when backup Elvis Grbac injured his shoulder late in the first half, San Francisco turned to a gimpy Young again. He threw 2 touchdown passes, including 1 of 45 yards to Terrell Owens with 2:08 left to tie the game at 21-21, then stunned everyone by bootlegging 15 yards for the winning touchdown with 1:08 to go.

Young: back in form for 49ers

PETER BROUILLET

Resistible Force

If there was an Achilles heel for the Colts during their 5-1 start, it was their offense's poor performance inside opponents' 20-yard line.

That hurt them against the Patriots in week 8, when Indianapolis drove inside New England territory six times, but came away with only 3 field goals. The Patriots recovered 4 fumbles and posted 4 sacks in a 27-9 victory.

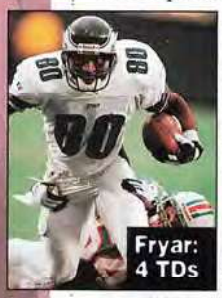
Round Two

Three weeks after the teams squared off in a brawl-filled game at Three Rivers Stadium, the Oilers and Steelers played at the Astrodome in Houston. But the only fight this time was for first place in the AFC Central.

Houston, a 30-16 loser in the first meeting, rallied to win 23-13 and tie Pittsburgh for the division lead. The Oilers trailed 13-9 until Chris Chandler teamed with Willie Davis on a 34-yard touchdown pass with 5:01 to play. Eddie George's 2-yard touchdown run 1:56 later clinched it.

Lost Cause

Sunday was a big day for wide receivers. Seven caught passes for more than 100 yards, including Philadelphia's Irving Fryar, who had 8 receptions for 116 yards and 4 touchdowns to key the Eagles' 35-28 victory over his former team, the Dolphins.



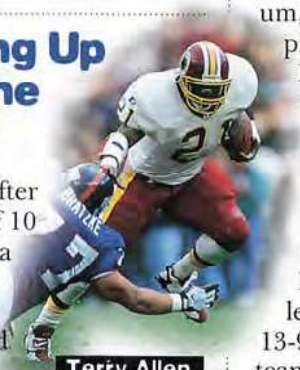
Fryar: 4 TDs

GREG CRISP

But the biggest pass-catching effort came in a losing cause. Jacksonville's Keenan McCardell caught 16 passes for 232 yards in the Jaguars' 17-14 loss to the Rams. Jacksonville amassed 36 first downs to St. Louis's 8, and had 538 total yards to the Rams' 204.

McCardell's effort equaled the third-best single-game performance in NFL history. Interestingly, only two of the top five pass-catching days helped their teams win games.

Keeping Up With the Allens



Terry Allen

DAVID STLUKA

One week after his streak of 10 games with a rushing touchdown was snapped in a victory over the Patriots, Washington's Terry Allen ran for 3 short touchdowns as the Redskins built a 28-0 halftime lead over the Giants, then held on to win 31-21. It was NFC Eastern Division-leading Washington's sixth consecutive victory.

The Chiefs' Marcus Allen had a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs in Kansas City's 34-16 victory over the Seahawks Thursday night. The venerable running back raised his career total to 109 rushing touchdowns, one behind Walter Payton's NFL record.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 25, **N.Y. Jets** 22
Denver 45, Baltimore 34
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 13
Kansas City 34, Seattle 16
New England 27, **Indianapolis** 9
Oakland 23, **San Diego** 14
NFC
Arizona 13, Tampa Bay 9
Carolina 19, New Orleans 7
Dallas 32, Atlanta 28
Washington 31, N.Y. Giants 21
INTERCONFERENCE
Philadelphia 35, Miami 28
St. Louis 17, Jacksonville 14
San Francisco 28, Cincinnati 21
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	2	0
Indianapolis	5	2	0
Miami	4	3	0
New England	4	3	0
N.Y. Jets	0	8	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Houston	5	2	0
Pittsburgh	5	2	0
Jacksonville	3	5	0
Baltimore	2	5	0
Cincinnati	1	6	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	1	0
Kansas City	5	2	0
San Diego	4	3	0
Oakland	4	4	0
Seattle	2	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	6	1	0
Philadelphia	5	2	0
Dallas	4	3	0
Arizona	3	4	0
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	6	1	0
Minnesota	5	2	0
Detroit	4	3	0
Chicago	2	5	0
Tampa Bay	1	6	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	5	2	0
San Francisco	5	2	0
St. Louis	2	5	0
New Orleans	2	6	0
Atlanta	0	7	0

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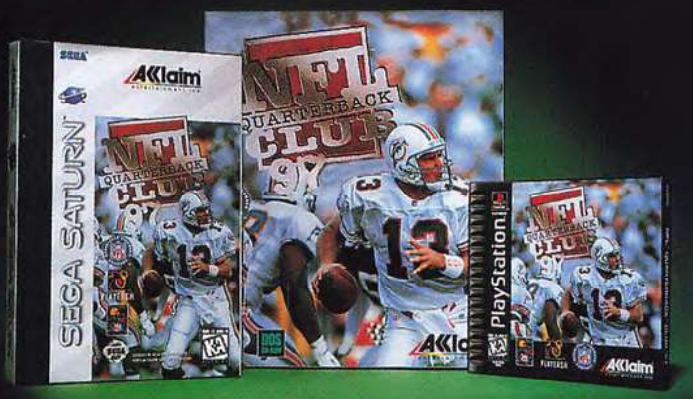

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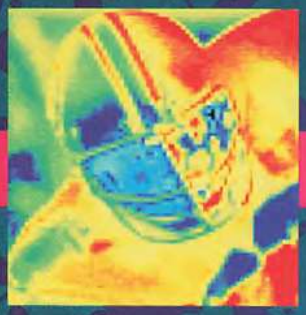

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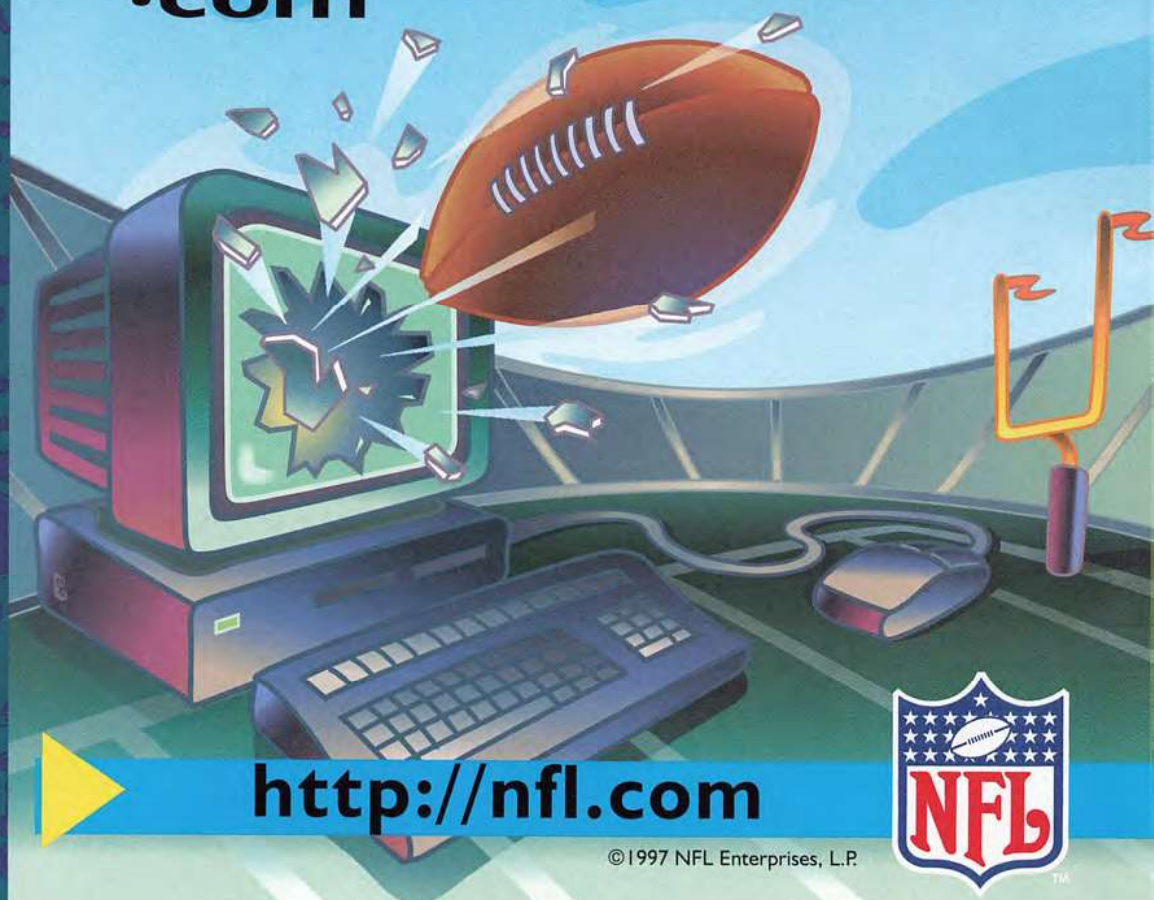

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replay week 9 '96

Following the Leaders

Four division leaders—Washington and Indianapolis, San Francisco and Houston—squared off in important interconference matchups in week 9. The NFC team prevailed in both games.

The Redskins beat the Colts 31-16 behind Terry Allen, who rushed for 124 yards and 3 touchdowns. Washington won its seventh in a row after losing its opening game.

Quarterback Steve Young, already hobbled by a chronic groin injury, was knocked out of the 49ers' game at Houston with a concussion on the first series. Backup Elvis Grbac was unavailable because of a shoulder injury, so San Francisco was forced to turn to free agent Jeff Brohm, who never had thrown an NFL pass. Brohm threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to rookie Terrell Owens with 4:27 remaining that gave San Francisco a 10-9 victory.

Rocky Mountain High for Broncos

Denver opened a two-game lead in the AFC West by routing the Chiefs 34-7 in a division showdown.

John Elway passed for 286 yards and 3 touchdowns, 2 to tight end Shannon Sharpe, as the Broncos amassed 26 first downs and 499 total yards while administering their most lopsided beating ever of Kansas City.

MICHAEL CONROY

The Giants sacked Detroit.

Miami Fizzle

JAMES D. SMITH

Irvin: 12 catches, 186 yards

It was billed as the "Commotion by the Ocean," but the much-anticipated matchup between Jimmy Johnson's Dolphins and the Cowboys—the team Johnson led to Super Bowl victories following the 1992 and 1993 seasons—failed to live up to expectations.

Dallas trailed 10-9 at halftime, but asserted itself in the second half and won easily 29-10.

Troy Aikman (33 of 41 passing for 363 yards and 3 touchdowns) and Emmitt Smith (118 yards from scrimmage and 1 touchdown), two superstars who were drafted by Johnson, and Michael Irvin (12 catches for 186 yards and a touchdown), who played for Johnson at the University of Miami, did the bulk of the damage.

New York, New York

TRACY FRANKEL

Adrian Murrell

The Giants and Jets both posted upsets on the road. It marked the first time since September 11, 1994, that New York's two NFL teams won on the same day.

The Giants' defense intercepted 5 passes, recovered a fumble, scored 2 touchdowns, and their special teams recorded a safety as New York stunned the Lions 35-7.

Adrian Murrell rushed for a club-record 199 yards and a touchdown as the Jets built a 17-0 halftime lead at Arizona and hung on to beat the Cardinals 31-21, ending a 12-game losing streak.

Magic Number

For the Steelers, it's 100—as in rushing yards for Jerome Bettis.

Against the Falcons, Bettis rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries in Pittsburgh's 20-17 victory. That raised the Steelers' record to 6-0 in games in which Bettis rushed for more than 100 yards. They were 0-2 in games in which he did not.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 28, Jacksonville 21
Denver 34, Kansas City 7
New England 28, Buffalo 25
Seattle 32, San Diego 13
NFC
Chicago 15, **Minnesota** 13
Green Bay 13, Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Giants 35, **Detroit** 7
Philadelphia 20, Carolina 9
INTERCONFERENCE
Baltimore 37, St. Louis 31 (OT)
Dallas 29, **Miami** 10
N.Y. Jets 31, **Arizona** 21
Pittsburgh 20, **Atlanta** 17
San Francisco 10, **Houston** 9
Washington 31, Indianapolis 16
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Green Bay beat Tampa Bay 13-7, but lost wide receiver Antonio Freeman for at least a month with a broken forearm ...The Panthers decided to stifle Philadelphia's ground game and make inexperienced quarterback Ty Detmer beat them. So Detmer, making only his third career start, did. While running back Ricky Watters was limited to only 33 yards on 21 carries, Detmer passed for 342 yards and a touchdown in the Eagles' 20-9 victory...The Patriots forged a three-way tie for first place in the AFC East by beating Buffalo 28-25 for their fifth victory in the last six games. New England, Buffalo, and Indianapolis were 5-3...Bruce Coslet had a successful debut as Cincinnati's head coach when the Bengals used a 21-point fourth-quarter outburst to beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-21.

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	3	0
Indianapolis	5	3	0
New England	5	3	0
Miami	4	4	0
N.Y. Jets	1	8	0

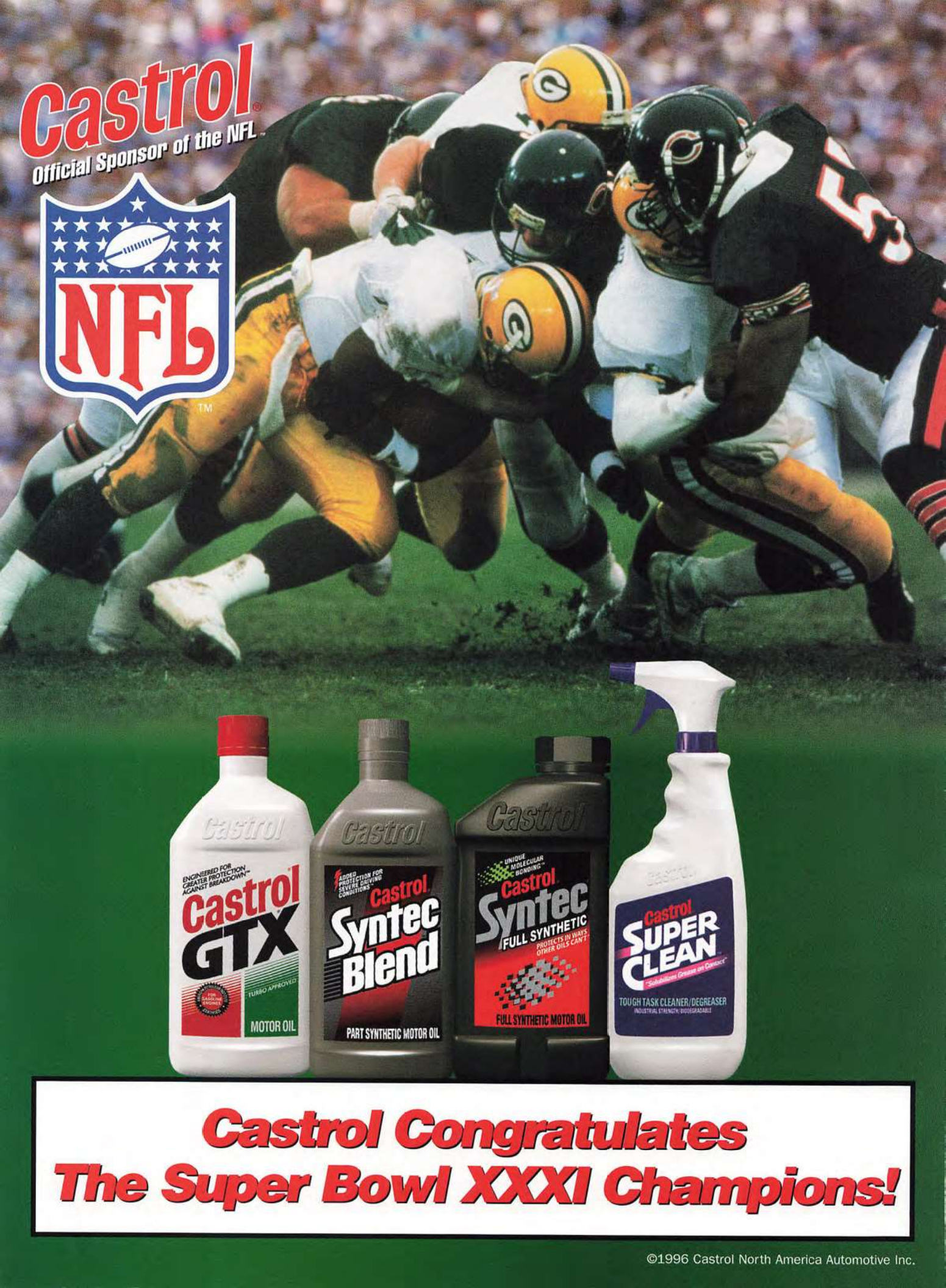
AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	6	2	0
Houston	5	3	0
Baltimore	3	5	0
Jacksonville	3	6	0
Cincinnati	2	6	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	7	1	0
Kansas City	5	3	0
Oakland	4	4	0
San Diego	4	4	0
Seattle	3	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	7	1	0
Philadelphia	6	2	0
Dallas	5	3	0
Arizona	3	5	0
N.Y. Giants	3	5	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	7	1	0
Minnesota	5	3	0
Detroit	4	4	0
Chicago	3	5	0
Tampa Bay	1	7	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	6	2	0
Carolina	5	3	0
New Orleans	2	6	0
St. Louis	2	6	0
Atlanta	0	8	0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re-play week 10 '96

Almost Perfect

The Broncos and Packers both boosted their records to an NFL-best 8-1 by dispatching pesky division foes in week 10.

Denver defeated Oakland 22-21 on Monday night when John Elway threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Rod Smith with 4:14 left. The Raiders never had lost a Monday night game at Oakland. They were 12-0, but they couldn't hold on to the 21-16 lead Jeff Hostetler gave them when he threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to Tim Brown with 5:01 to go.

Brett Favre and Green Bay rebounded from a poor offensive performance against last-place Tampa Bay in week 9 to beat Detroit 28-18.

Patriots' Day

New England, which started the season with back-to-back losses, beat the Dolphins 42-23 in week 10 for its sixth victory in seven games. At 6-3, the Patriots were tied for first in the AFC East.

ARTHUR ANDERSON

Drew Bledsoe gets hot.

In avenging a 24-10 loss to Miami opening day, the Patriots amassed 468 total yards, including 419 passing yards from quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who completed 30 of 41 attempts.

Indianapolis fell a game off the pace in the AFC East by losing to San Diego 26-19. John Carney kicked 4 field goals for the Chargers, and Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh was intercepted 4 times and lost a fumble.

ED RADESKY

Vincent clinched a victory.

Fantastic Finishes

Philadelphia pulled into a tie for first place in the NFC East by beating Dallas 31-21. The Eagles were clinging to a 24-21 lead in the final minute when the Cowboys faced third-and-goal from Philadelphia's 3-yard line. Quarterback Troy Aikman was intercepted by Eagles linebacker James Willis in the end zone. Willis returned the ball to the 10, then lateraled to cornerback Troy Vincent, who covered the remaining 90 yards for the clinching touchdown with 12 seconds left.

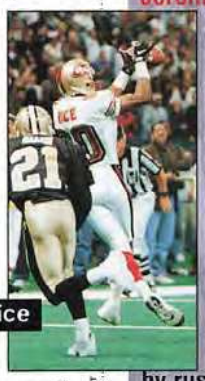
In Seattle, the Seahawks faced virtual elimination from the playoff chase when Houston's Al Del Greco lined up for a 37-yard field-goal try with the score tied 16-16 and 22 seconds left. But defensive end Michael McCrary blocked Del Greco's kick, picked it up, and lateraled to safety Robert Blackmon, who raced 61 yards for the winning touchdown with four seconds to go. Seattle won for the fourth time in six games.

Roaring Back

The Bengals raised their record to 2-0 under new coach Bruce Coslet when they rallied from a 21-3 halftime deficit to beat the Ravens 24-21. In the first two games under Coslet, Cincinnati outscored its opponents 35-7 in the fourth quarter.

High Hurdle

Marcus Allen dived over the goal line for a 1-yard touchdown late in the first half of the Chiefs' 21-6 victory over the Vikings. It was the 110th rushing touchdown of Allen's 15-year career, equalling Walter Payton's NFL record. The league's all-time top five:


MICHAEL HEBERT

Jerry Rice

Rank	Player Rushing	Touchdowns
1.	*Marcus Allen	110
	Walter Payton	110
3.	Jim Brown	106
4.	*Emmitt Smith	105
5.	John Riggins	104

*active player

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 24, **Baltimore** 21
Denver 22, **Oakland** 21
New England 42, Miami 23
San Diego 26, **Indianapolis** 19
Seattle 23, Houston 16

NFC
Atlanta 20, Carolina 17
Chicago 13, Tampa Bay 10
Green Bay 28, Detroit 18
N.Y. Giants 16, Arizona 8
Philadelphia 31, **Dallas** 21
San Francisco 24, **New Orleans** 17

INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 38, Washington 13
Kansas City 21, **Minnesota** 6
Pittsburgh 42, St. Louis 6
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

San Francisco's Jerry Rice became the first player in NFL history to catch 1,000 career passes, reaching that lofty figure in the 49ers' 24-17 victory over the Saints on Sunday night... Jerome Bettis exacted a measure of revenge against the Rams, the team that traded him last spring, by rushing for 129 yards and 2 touchdowns to key Pittsburgh's 42-6 rout of St. Louis... Jamal Anderson rushed for 109 yards and a touchdown as the Falcons won for the first time this season, beating the Panthers 20-17... Buffalo stayed tied for the AFC East lead with a 38-13 victory over Washington, snapping the Redskins' seven-game winning streak.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	6	3	0	Pittsburgh	7	2	0	Denver	8	1	0	Philadelphia	7	2	0	Green Bay	8	1	0	San Francisco	7	2	0
New England	6	3	0	Houston	5	4	0	Kansas City	6	3	0	Washington	7	2	0	Minnesota	5	4	0	Carolina	5	4	0
Indianapolis	5	4	0	Baltimore	3	6	0	San Diego	5	4	0	Dallas	5	4	0	Chicago	4	5	0	New Orleans	2	7	0
Miami	4	5	0	Cincinnati	3	6	0	Oakland	4	5	0	N.Y. Giants	4	5	0	Detroit	4	5	0	St. Louis	2	7	0
N.Y. Jets	1	8	0	Jacksonville	3	6	0	Seattle	4	5	0	Arizona	3	6	0	Tampa Bay	1	8	0	Atlanta	1	8	0

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver kept Chicago out of the end zone on four tries inside the 5-yard line in the final minute to hang on for a 17-12 victory over the Bears. The Broncos were the only NFL team with just one loss through 11 weeks...Dan Marino passed for 204 yards and 3 touchdowns to carry the Dolphins to an easy 37-13 victory over the Colts. Marino became the first NFL player to surpass 50,000 career passing yards... Cincinnati's 34-24 upset of the AFC Central Division-leading Steelers raised its record to 3-0 since Bruce Coslet took over as coach...Tampa Bay's 20-17 overtime victory over the Raiders was the NFC's lone triumph in seven interconference games in week 11.

re-play week 11 '96

Double Feature

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

Hill led the Chiefs to victory.

A pair of critical games between playoff hopefuls highlighted week 11.

In Kansas City, the Chiefs stopped the Packers 27-20, ending Green Bay's winning streak at five games. Greg Hill rushed for 94 yards and scored 3 touchdowns as Kansas City built a 27-6 lead a minute into the third quarter and never was threatened seriously.

The Cowboys visited San Francisco with their backs to the wall after a crushing loss to Philadelphia a week earlier. But after spotting the 49ers 10 points in the first quarter, Dallas rallied to win 20-17 in overtime on Chris Boniol's 29-yard field goal.

A Super Interconference Record

RON VESELY

Dan Marino

Defensive end Bruce Smith sacked Ty Detmer on fourth-and-goal from the 3-yard line in the closing seconds of the game to preserve Buffalo's 24-17 victory over Philadelphia. That gave the Bills a four-game sweep of their NFC East opponents in 1996. It also raised Buffalo's record in interconference games in the nineties to 22-6—not counting those games at neutral sites in the last week of January, of course.

Winging It

Arizona's Boomer Esiason had lost his starting job to Kent Graham earlier this season, but the 35-year-old quarterback proved he still has "a few more yards left in my arm," as he said after leading the Cardinals to a 37-34 overtime surprise of the Redskins.

LARA SAHAKIAN

Boomer Esiason

Playing in place of the injured Graham, Esiason had the third-most prolific day in NFL history when he passed for 522 yards while completing 35 of 59 attempts. Only Norm Van Brocklin (554) and Warren Moon (527) passed for more yards in a single game.

Esiason threw 3 touchdown passes, including a 12-yard strike to Anthony Edwards to tie the game with 20 seconds left in regulation. Kevin Butler, playing his first game since being signed earlier in the week, kicked a 32-yard field goal with 33 seconds left in overtime to win it. Butler got a second chance after a penalty wiped out his first try from 37 yards, which bounced off the left upright.

No Place Like Home

The good news for the Panthers: After back-to-back losses on the road they returned home in week 11 to defeat the New York Giants 27-17, staying in the thick of the NFC playoff chase. Now the bad news: Carolina was to play three of its next four on the road. No team in the NFL was as disparate home and away as the Panthers, who raised their record to 5-0 in Ericsson Stadium.

Opposite Directions

After Seattle routed Minnesota 42-23, both teams had 5-5 records. The paths they took to get there, however, were divergent. The soaring Seahawks, who got 263 passing yards and 2 touchdowns from John Friesz, won for the fourth time in five outings since Friesz claimed the starting quarterback job. The Vikings dropped their fourth in a row and fifth in six games after starting 4-0.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 34, Pittsburgh 24
Jacksonville 30, Baltimore 27
Miami 37, Indianapolis 13
New England 31, **N.Y. Jets** 27
NFC
Arizona 37, **Washington** 34 (OT)
Carolina 27, N.Y. Giants 17
Dallas 20, **San Francisco** 17 (OT)
St. Louis 59, Atlanta 16
INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 24, **Philadelphia** 17
Denver 17, Chicago 12
Houston 31, **New Orleans** 14
Kansas City 27, Green Bay 20
San Diego 27, Detroit 21
Seattle 42, Minnesota 23
Tampa Bay 20, Oakland 17 (OT)
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	3	0
New England	7	3	0
Indianapolis	5	5	0
Miami	5	5	0
N.Y. Jets	1	9	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	7	3	0
Houston	6	4	0
Cincinnati	4	6	0
Jacksonville	4	6	0
Baltimore	3	7	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	9	1	0
Kansas City	7	3	0
San Diego	6	4	0
Seattle	5	5	0
Oakland	4	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Philadelphia	7	3	0
Washington	7	3	0
Dallas	6	4	0
Arizona	4	6	0
N.Y. Giants	4	6	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	8	2	0
Minnesota	5	5	0
Chicago	4	6	0
Detroit	4	6	0
Tampa Bay	2	8	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	7	3	0
Carolina	6	4	0
St. Louis	3	7	0
New Orleans	2	8	0
Atlanta	1	9	0

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re-play week 12 '96

Tampa Bay never had beaten San Diego, but Trent Dilfer passed for 327 yards and Michael Husted kicked 4 field goals as the improving Buccaneers stunned the Chargers 25-17. The victory in San Diego was only the second win on the West Coast in Tampa Bay's 21-year NFL history... Seattle lost 17-16 to Detroit when Todd Peterson's 42-yard field-goal try on the game's final play sliced right. The Seahawks got more bad news the next day when they learned that quarterback John Friesz had suffered a season-ending broken leg...When Dave Krieg was tackled twice behind the line in the fourth quarter of Chicago's 14-10 loss to Kansas City, he broke a tie with Fran Tarkenton for the most times sacked in an NFL career with 485.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

Davis: 210 total yards, 3 TDs

Hot and Hotter

The NFL's two hottest teams, Denver and New England, met in Foxboro in week 12. The Broncos entered the game a league-best 9-1, while the Patriots had won seven of eight games after an 0-2 start. The Broncos won 34-8.

Denver running back Terrell Davis caught a 15-yard touchdown pass shortly after the Patriots failed on a fake punt on the game's fourth play, and went on to rush for 2 more touchdowns as the Broncos built a 24-0 halftime lead. The second-year running back finished with 154 yards on 32 carries and caught 4 passes for 56 yards.

JAMES D. SMITH

Chris Boniol

Seventh Heaven

The Cowboys beat Green Bay 21-6 for their seventh consecutive victory over the Packers at Texas Stadium since 1993.

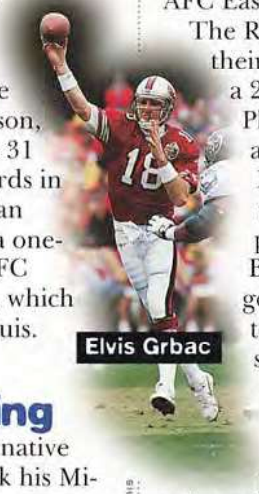
Dallas won in unconventional fashion, with Chris Boniol converting 7-of-7 field-goal attempts to account for all 21 points. His seventh field goal, from 28 yards with 20 seconds left, tied the NFL single-game record.

It was the Cowboys' seventh victory of the season, naturally.

Don't Be Cruel

Quarterback Elvis Grbac, stung by mid-week criticism from San Francisco mayor Willie Brown over an ineffective performance against Dallas a week earlier, responded by passing for 1 touchdown and rushing for another to lead the 49ers over Baltimore 38-20.

Grbac, who also had to cope with the illness of his infant son, completed 26 of his 31 attempts for 268 yards in intermittent rain. San Francisco retained a one-game lead in the NFC West over Carolina, which won 20-10 at St. Louis.



MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Elvis Grbac

Homecoming

Port Arthur, Texas, native Jimmy Johnson took his Miami Dolphins to Houston and defeated the Oilers 23-20.

The Oilers jumped to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, but the Dolphins rallied, and took the lead at 20-17 on rookie linebacker Zach Thomas's 26-yard interception return for a touchdown with 10:42 to play. After Al Del Greco's 33-yard field goal tied the game at the 3:20 mark, Miami tight end Troy Drayton's 51-yard catch-and-run positioned Joe Nedney for the winning 29-yard field goal as time ran out.

Moving Day

Buffalo and Washington moved into sole possession of division leads as the season neared the three-quarter mark.

Quarterback Jim Kelly, who ran for a touchdown and passed for another, and the Bills' defense, which recorded 7 sacks, helped hand Bruce Coslet his first defeat as Bengals coach, 31-17. In search of its seventh division title in nine years, Buffalo pulled a game ahead of New England in the AFC East.

The Redskins stopped their two-game slide with a 26-21 victory at Philadelphia to break a tie atop the NFC East. Gus Frerotte threw 2 touchdown passes and Scott Blanton kicked 4 field goals, but Washington's victory was not secured until its pass defense stiffened, forcing Ty Detmer to throw incomplete on four consecutive passes from the Redskins' 20 in the final seconds.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 31, Cincinnati 17
Denver 34, **New England** 8
Indianapolis 34, N.Y. Jets 29
Miami 23, **Houston** 20
Pittsburgh 28, Jacksonville 3
NFC
Arizona 31, N.Y. Giants 23
Atlanta 17, New Orleans 15
Carolina 20, **St. Louis** 10
Dallas 21, Green Bay 6
Washington 26, **Philadelphia** 21
INTERCONFERENCE
Detroit 17, Seattle 16
Kansas City 14, Chicago 10
Minnesota 16, **Oakland** 13 (OT)
San Francisco 38, Baltimore 20
Tampa Bay 25, **San Diego** 17
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	3	0
New England	7	4	0
Indianapolis	6	5	0
Miami	6	5	0
N.Y. Jets	1	10	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	8	3	0
Houston	6	5	0
Cincinnati	4	7	0
Jacksonville	4	7	0
Baltimore	3	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	10	1	0
Kansas City	8	3	0
San Diego	6	5	0
Seattle	5	6	0
Oakland	4	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	8	3	0
Dallas	7	4	0
Philadelphia	7	4	0
Arizona	5	6	0
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	8	3	0
Minnesota	6	5	0
Detroit	5	6	0
Chicago	4	7	0
Tampa Bay	3	8	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	8	3	0
Carolina	7	4	0
St. Louis	3	8	0
Atlanta	2	9	0
New Orleans	2	9	0

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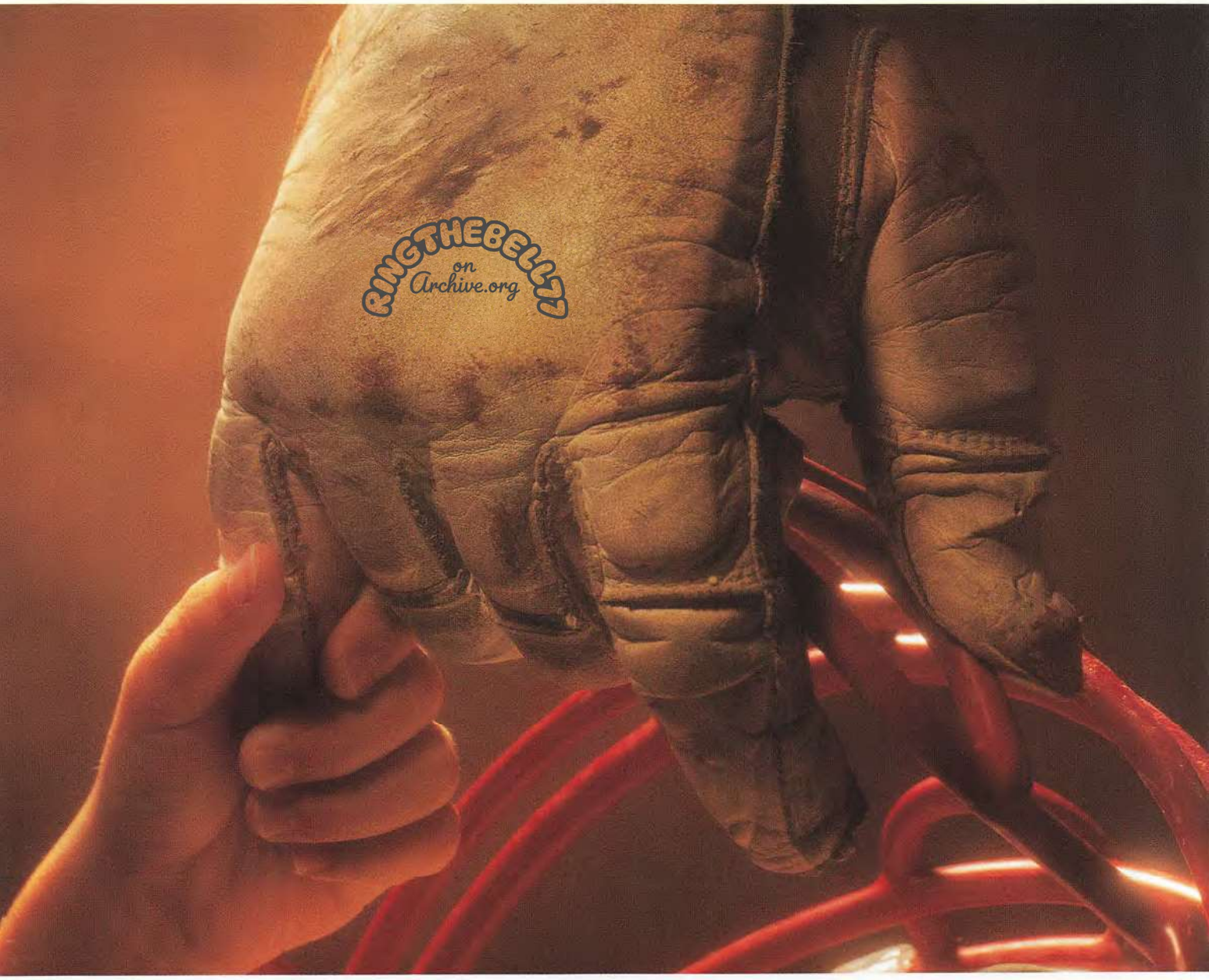

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NFL/YET Centers are year-round havens for at-risk youth, where young minds and bodies are stimulated in multifaceted educational and recreational facilities. From fashion shows to track-and-field competitions to classes designed to build self-esteem, NFL/YET enriches the lives of young people.

Brothers Rocket Ismail of the Panthers (top) and Qadry Ismail of the Vikings visit the NFL/YET Center in Los Angeles.

re-play week 13 '96

Lightning Strikes Twice

San Diego completed a season sweep of Kansas City, shocking the Chiefs 28-14 in Arrowhead Stadium.

Stan Humphries passed for 252 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Leonard Russell ran for 2 touchdowns as the Chargers built a 28-0 lead midway through the third quarter and coasted to the victory.

Kansas City, which earlier in the season saw its 11-game regular-season winning streak at Arrowhead Stadium snapped, lost at home for the second time in 1996 and fell three games behind division-leading Denver. The Chiefs' Marcus Allen caught the 567th pass of his career during the game, breaking the NFL record held by Roger Craig for receptions by a running back.

I Got It, You Take It

No one seemed willing to take charge in the NFC East, where Washington, Philadelphia, and Dallas all squandered opportunities to step up in week 13.

JIM TURNER

New York stunned Dallas.

The division-leading Redskins led the 49ers 16-9 until Steve Young completed all 7 of his pass attempts on a 73-yard touchdown drive that tied the score late in regulation. Young then directed a

RON VESELY

Sanders: 1,000 yards again

38-yard march to Jeff Wilkins's winning 38-yard field goal on the opening possession of overtime. Young tied an NFL single-game record in the 19-16 victory by completing 20 consecutive pass attempts until he threw away a pass on the final play of regulation time.

GREG CRISP

Steve Young

At Arizona, Philadelphia could not hold a pair of 7-point leads in the first half, then rallied from a 9-point deficit late in the game to take a 30-29 advantage on Gary Anderson's 32-year field goal with just 52 seconds left. But Boomer Esiason's 24-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Dowdell 38 seconds later thwarted the Eagles 36-30.

Dallas, winner of six of seven games, including back-to-back victories against San Francisco and Green Bay, committed 5 turnovers in a 20-6 loss to the last-place Giants. It was the second consecutive game in which the Cowboys failed to score a touchdown.

A Winning Tip

The Broncos won their eighth consecutive game and became the first team to clinch a playoff berth when Ed McCaffrey caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from John Elway with 19 seconds left to upend Minnesota 21-17.

Elway's pass first was deflected by Vikings safety Harlon Barnett. Then, when Barnett and teammate Orlando Thomas collided going for the interception, the ball rebounded to McCaffrey.

Recharged

Moribund through much of a 5-3 start, Buffalo's offense came to life when quarterback Jim Kelly began running the No-Huddle offense again. In week 13, the Bills won their fourth consecutive game, a 35-10 rout of the Jets in which Kelly threw 3 first-half touchdown passes. He left the game late in the second quarter with a hamstring injury. The Bills averaged 32 points per game in their win streak.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 35, N.Y. Jets 10
Jacksonville 28, **Baltimore** 25 (OT)
New England 27, Indianapolis 13
Oakland 27, **Seattle** 21
Pittsburgh 24, **Miami** 17
San Diego 28, **Kansas City** 14
NFC
Arizona 36, Philadelphia 30
Chicago 31, Detroit 14
Green Bay 24, **St. Louis** 9
N.Y. Giants 20, Dallas 6
San Francisco 19, **Washington** 16 (OT)
Tampa Bay 13, New Orleans 7
INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 31, **Houston** 6
Cincinnati 41, Atlanta 31
Denver 21, **Minnesota** 17
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Detroit running back Barry Sanders became the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 1,000 yards eight consecutive seasons, but his 107 yards against the Bears could not prevent the Lions' 31-14 defeat, their fifth loss in the last six games ...Jacksonville beat Baltimore 28-25 in overtime. It was the Jaguars' fourth victory in as many games against the team formerly known as the Cleveland Browns...Carolina's 31-6 rout of slumping Houston gave the Panthers back-to-back victories on the road. Carolina had lost four of its first five games this season away from Ericsson Stadium...The Steelers' 24-17 victory over Miami was their ninth in 10 Monday night games under coach Bill Cowher.

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	3	0
New England	8	4	0
Indianapolis	6	6	0
Miami	6	6	0
N.Y. Jets	1	11	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	9	3	0
Houston	6	6	0
Cincinnati	5	7	0
Jacksonville	5	7	0
Baltimore	3	9	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	11	1	0
Kansas City	8	4	0
San Diego	7	5	0
Oakland	5	7	0
Seattle	5	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	8	4	0
Dallas	7	5	0
Philadelphia	7	5	0
Arizona	6	6	0
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	9	3	0
Minnesota	6	6	0
Chicago	5	7	0
Detroit	5	7	0
Tampa Bay	4	8	0

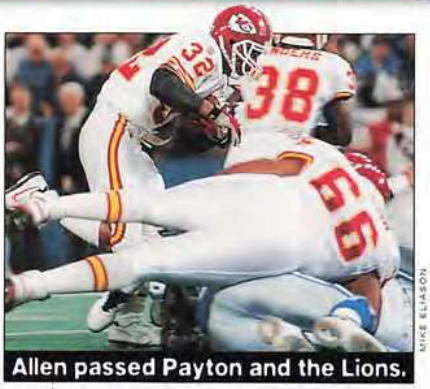
NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	9	3	0
Carolina	8	4	0
St. Louis	3	9	0
Atlanta	2	10	0
New Orleans	2	10	0

AROUND THE LEAGUE

re-play week 14 '96

Green Bay moved within a victory of clinching the NFC Central title by beating Chicago 28-17. It was the Packers' twenty-fourth victory in their last 25 games at Lambeau Field... Ravens tight end Eric Green (a game-clinching touchdown catch in the fourth quarter) and running back Bam Morris (100 yards rushing) helped beat their former team when Baltimore upset Pittsburgh 31-17...The Dolphins lost to the Raiders 17-7, giving Miami an 0-9 record in Oakland...Jets quarterback Neil O'Donnell's season ended when he suffered a pulled calf muscle in warmups prior to New York's 35-10 loss to the Oilers. The free-agent signee was due to play for the first time after missing six weeks with a separated shoulder.

Holiday Rush

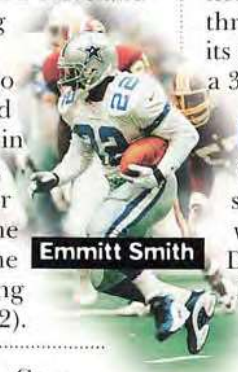

MIKE ELIASON

Allen passed Payton and the Lions.

Dallas and Kansas City won Thanksgiving Day games by overpowering their opponents on the ground.

The Cowboys forged a three-way tie with Philadelphia and Washington for first place in the NFC East by handing the Redskins their fourth loss in five games, 21-10. Emmitt Smith exploded for 155 yards on 29 carries and scored all 3 of the Cowboys' touchdowns. Dallas ran for 201 yards and raised its record to 5-0 against Washington on Thanksgiving Day.

Jason Hanson's 21-yard field goal put the Lions ahead of the Chiefs 24-21 with 8:41 left in their game at Detroit. But Kansas City held the ball for the next 7:55 and won 28-24 on Marcus Allen's 1-yard touchdown dive with 46 seconds to play. The Chiefs gained 63 yards rushing on the 76-yard drive and had 243 rushing yards for the game. Allen, who also had a 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, surpassed Walter Payton to become the NFL's all-time leader for rushing touchdowns (112).


BILL WOOD

Emmitt Smith

From the Infirmary

KEVIN TERRELL-NFLP

Cary Blanchard

Indianapolis played Buffalo without starting quarterback Jim Harbaugh, who injured his knee in a loss to the Patriots in week 13. Only four Colts starters had not missed at least one game because of injury this season. The Bills, meanwhile, lined up without injured quarterback Jim Kelly, running back Thurman Thomas, wide receiver Steve Tasker, and defensive end Bryce Paup.

Indianapolis won the battle of attrition, renewing its playoff hopes with a 13-10 victory in overtime. Cary Blanchard's 49-yard field goal 10:46 into the extra session provided the final margin. Blanchard, who had converted 29 of 31 attempts entering the game, missed from 33 and 41 yards in regulation before atoning on the Colts' first possession in overtime.

Not Even Close

Through the first 13 weeks of the season, nearly half of all NFL games (84 of 180, or 46.7 percent) were decided by seven or fewer points. But that formula did not hold true in week 14, when only three of 15 games were close. The average margin of victory in the 12 other games was 21 points. The biggest blowout came in San Diego, where Drew Bledsoe threw 4 touchdown passes and the Patriots moved into a tie for first place in the AFC East by thrashing the Chargers 45-7.

All Wrapped Up

With three games still to play in the regular season, Denver took some suspense out of the AFC postseason picture by wrapping up the Western Division title and securing home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with its eighth consecutive victory, a 34-7 romp over Seattle.

Blank Looks

Carolina preserved its 24-0 shutout of the Buccaneers when cornerback Eric Davis knocked down Trent Dilfer's fourth-down pass in the end zone with 13 seconds remaining. It was the first shutout in the Panthers' two-year history.

Philadelphia whitewashed the Giants by the same score, limiting New York to only 9 first downs and 131 total yards.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 31, Pittsburgh 17
Denver 34, Seattle 7
Houston 35, **N.Y. Jets** 10
Indianapolis 13, Buffalo 10 (OT)
Jacksonville 30, Cincinnati 27
New England 45, **San Diego** 7
Oakland 17, Miami 7
NFC
Carolina 24, Tampa Bay 0
Dallas 21, Washington 10
Green Bay 28, Chicago 17
Minnesota 41, Arizona 17
Philadelphia 24, N.Y. Giants 0
St. Louis 26, **New Orleans** 10
San Francisco 34, **Atlanta** 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Kansas City 28, **Detroit** 24
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	4	0
New England	9	4	0
Indianapolis	7	6	0
Miami	6	7	0
N.Y. Jets	1	12	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	9	4	0
Houston	7	6	0
Jacksonville	6	7	0
Cincinnati	5	8	0
Baltimore	4	9	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	12	1	0
Kansas City	9	4	0
San Diego	7	6	0
Oakland	6	7	0
Seattle	5	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	8	5	0
Philadelphia	8	5	0
Washington	8	5	0
Arizona	6	7	0
N.Y. Giants	5	8	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	10	3	0
Minnesota	7	6	0
Chicago	5	8	0
Detroit	5	8	0
Tampa Bay	4	9	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	10	3	0
Carolina	9	4	0
St. Louis	4	9	0
Atlanta	2	11	0
New Orleans	2	11	0

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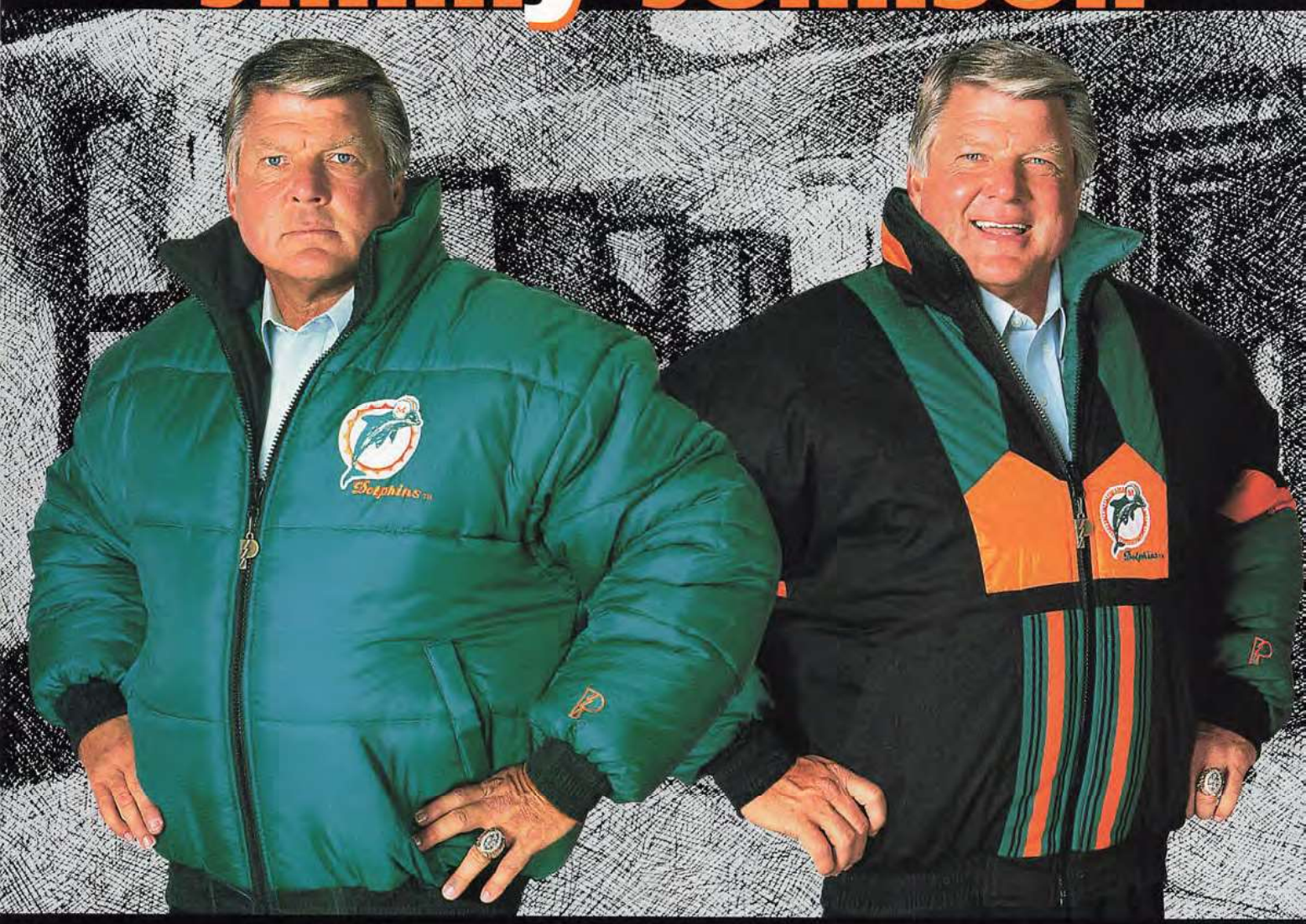
There are two sides to Jimmy Johnson



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re-play week 15 '96

Wild Chase

Buffalo and Kansas City could have clinched postseason berths, but both stumbled on the road, muddling the AFC playoff picture.

Jim Kelly threw 2 interceptions, lost a fumble, and was sacked 6 times as the Seahawks beat the Bills 26-18.

In Oakland, the Raiders snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Chiefs by limiting Kansas City to 169 total yards in a 26-7 victory.

With Denver, Pittsburgh (which clinched the Central Division with a 16-3 decision over San Diego), and New England (winner of 10 of its last 12 after a 34-10 rout of the Jets) in the playoffs, 10 teams were left to fight for the remaining three berths.

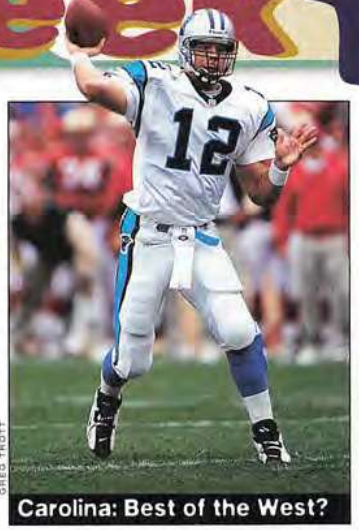
Central Stage

The matchup between 12-1 Denver and 10-3 Green Bay, the best of the AFC and the best of the NFC, lost some of its luster when Broncos quarterback John Elway, with little at stake for his team, sat out the game with an injured hamstring.

DAVID STLUKA

Antonio Freeman

So Brett Favre grabbed the spotlight, passing for 280 yards and 4 touchdowns as the Packers clinched their second consecutive NFC Central Division title with a 41-6 rout. Three of Favre's touchdown passes went to Antonio Freeman, who had 19 catches for 331 yards in his first two games back after missing four weeks with a broken arm.



GREG TROTT

Carolina: Best of the West?

Rapid Expansion

Never had an NFL expansion team come so far, so fast: Carolina's 30-24 victory over San Francisco in week 15 clinched a playoff berth for the Panthers in only their second season.

Carolina won its fifth consecutive game by jumping to a 27-17 first-half lead behind 3 touchdown passes from Kerry Collins, then holding on in the fourth quarter. The Panthers tied San Francisco for first place in the NFC West, but positioned themselves for the division title by virtue of their season sweep of the 49ers.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville, the NFL's other expansion team in 1995, quietly moved into playoff contention by beating Houston 23-17 behind a pair of touchdown runs from Natrone Means. The Jaguars won their third in a row, raised their record to .500 for the first time in franchise history, and pulled within one game of the final wild-card berth in the AFC.

Turning to the East

In the NFC, Green Bay, San Francisco, and Carolina already were in, so the playoff focus was on the East, where Dallas, Washington, and Philadelphia jockeyed for position, and Arizona clung to slim hopes.

The Cowboys moved into first place for the first time this season by overcoming Arizona 10-6. Troy Aikman's 50-yard pass to Michael Irvin late in the third quarter was the game's only touchdown.

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

Irvin broke loose.

The Eagles suffered a stunning 37-10 defeat at Indianapolis, and the Redskins were reeling after losing 24-10 at Tampa Bay. Washington, once 7-1, lost its fifth in six games.

The only other NFC team in playoff contention was Minnesota, which held on to beat Detroit 24-22 when the Lions' two-point conversion try failed with 2:34 left.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 21, Baltimore 14
Jacksonville 23, **Houston** 17
New England 34, N.Y. Jets 10
Oakland 26, Kansas City 7
Pittsburgh 16, San Diego 3
Seattle 26, Buffalo 18
NFC
Atlanta 31, **New Orleans** 15
Carolina 30, **San Francisco** 24
Chicago 35, St. Louis 9
Dallas 10, **Arizona** 6
Minnesota 24, **Detroit** 22
Tampa Bay 24, Washington 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Green Bay 41, Denver 6
Indianapolis 37, Philadelphia 10
N.Y. Giants 17, **Miami** 7
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Rodney Hampton's 4-yard touchdown run in the Giants' 17-7 victory over the Dolphins was his first of the season. Hampton's forty-eighth score equaled Joe Morris's franchise record for career rushing touchdowns... The Bengals secured a 21-14 victory over the Ravens with a goal-line stand in the final minute. Bam Morris ran 4 yards on first-and-goal from the 5, then was stopped twice from the 1 before Vinny Testaverde's fourth-down pass to fullback Carwell Gardner was caught for no gain...Bobby Hebert threw 3 touchdown passes as Atlanta handed New Orleans its seventh consecutive defeat 31-15. Hebert helped beat his former teammates for the second time in four weeks.

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	4	0
Buffalo	9	5	0
Indianapolis	8	6	0
Miami	6	8	0
N.Y. Jets	1	13	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	10	4	0
Houston	7	7	0
Jacksonville	7	7	0
Cincinnati	6	8	0
Baltimore	4	10	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	12	2	0
Kansas City	9	5	0
Oakland	7	7	0
San Diego	7	7	0
Seattle	6	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	9	5	0
Philadelphia	8	6	0
Washington	8	6	0
Arizona	6	8	0
N.Y. Giants	6	8	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	11	3	0
Minnesota	8	6	0
Chicago	6	8	0
Detroit	5	9	0
Tampa Bay	5	9	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	10	4	0
San Francisco	10	4	0
St. Louis	4	10	0
Atlanta	3	11	0
New Orleans	2	12	0

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Carolina's 27-16 victory over Baltimore raised the Panthers' record to 7-0 at home and dropped the Ravens to 0-8 on the road... Jerry Rice caught 8 passes in San Francisco's 25-15 victory at Pittsburgh. Rice became the first player to catch 100 or more passes in four seasons...Before the Bengals' 21-13 victory over the Oilers, Cincinnati gave head coach Bruce Coslet a four-year contract. The victory raised Coslet's record to 6-2 since taking over for Dave Shula...Rookie Eddie Kennison caught 5 passes for 226 yards and 3 touchdowns in the Rams' 34-27 victory over Atlanta. St. Louis scored 93 points in its two-game sweep of the Falcons this season...The NFC won all five interconference games in week 16.

re-play week 16 '96

Jacksonville Stays Alive

A month ago, Jacksonville was not even an afterthought in the AFC wild-card race. At 4-7, the Jaguars were foundering near the bottom of the Central Division; only the Jets and the Ravens had poorer records in the AFC. But Jacksonville beat Seattle 20-13 in week 16 for its fourth consecutive victory. Because of losses by the Chiefs and Bills, the Jaguars were in control of their playoff destiny heading into the final week of the season.

JOHN STUDWELL

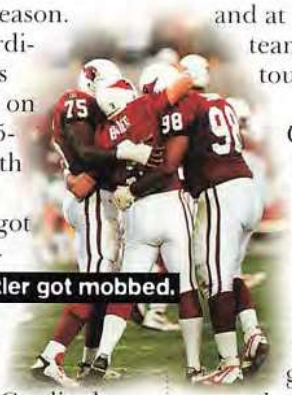
Smith's touchdown won it.

Mark Brunell passed for 231 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 39-yard strike to Jimmy Smith on the first play of the fourth quarter that gave Jacksonville the lead for good.

Butler Did It

Kevin Butler kicked a 28-yard field goal with no time remaining to give Arizona a 27-26 victory over Washington, handing the Redskins their sixth loss in seven games and knocking them out of the playoffs. It was a bitter defeat for Washington, which had been 7-1 at the midpoint of the season.

Against the Cardinals, the Redskins took a 26-24 lead on Scott Blanton's 35-yard field goal with 7:14 to go in the game, but never got back the ball. Arizona's winning drive covered 69 yards in 15 plays.


DIANE JOHNSON

Butler got mobbed.

Butler and the Cardinals were key culprits in Washington's demise. Five weeks earlier, Butler beat the Redskins 37-34 in overtime by kicking a 32-yard field goal in his first game with Arizona.

First-Round Catch

Marvin Harrison's 3 touchdown catches sparked Indianapolis to a 24-19 victory at Kansas City, the Colts' third consecutive win. Harrison, the nineteenth pick of the 1996 draft, had 6 catches for 103 yards, and at week's end led his team in receptions and touchdowns.

AL PEREIRA

Michael Zordich

The victory put the Colts on the brink of the playoffs, but shoved Kansas City to the edge of elimination. The Chiefs lost for the third time in four weeks and set up a critical game with Buffalo in the regular-season finale. The Bills also stumbled, losing to Miami 16-14 on Monday night.

By virtue of the Bills' loss, New England won its first AFC East title since 1986.

Wings and a Prayer

Eagles wide receiver Irving Fryar, an ordained minister, caught 2 touchdown passes, including a 14-yard strike from Ty Detmer with 5:29 left in the game, to put Philadelphia in the playoffs with a 21-20 victory over the Jets. It was an unlikely victory for the Eagles, who overcame a 20-7 deficit midway through the fourth quarter. A defensive holding penalty on fourth-and-three set up Detmer's 2-yard touchdown pass to Chris T. Jones with 7:04 remaining, and, moments later, safety Michael Zordich's interception set up the winning touchdown.

Philadelphia's victory, coupled with Dallas's NFC East-clinching 12-6 victory over the Patriots and Minnesota's 21-10 triumph over the Buccaneers, cleared up the postseason picture in the NFC. The Eagles, Cowboys, and Vikings would join the Packers, Panthers, and 49ers in the playoffs.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 21, **Houston** 13
Denver 24, Oakland 19
Indianapolis 24, **Kansas City** 19
Jacksonville 20, Seattle 13
Miami 16, Buffalo 14

NFC
Arizona 27, Washington 26
Green Bay 31, **Detroit** 3
Minnesota 21, Tampa Bay 10
New Orleans 17, **N.Y. Giants** 3
St. Louis 34, **Atlanta** 27

INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 27, Baltimore 16
Chicago 27, San Diego 14
Dallas 12, New England 6
Philadelphia 21, **N.Y. Jets** 20
San Francisco 25, **Pittsburgh** 15
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	5	0
Buffalo	9	6	0
Indianapolis	9	6	0
Miami	7	8	0
N.Y. Jets	1	14	0

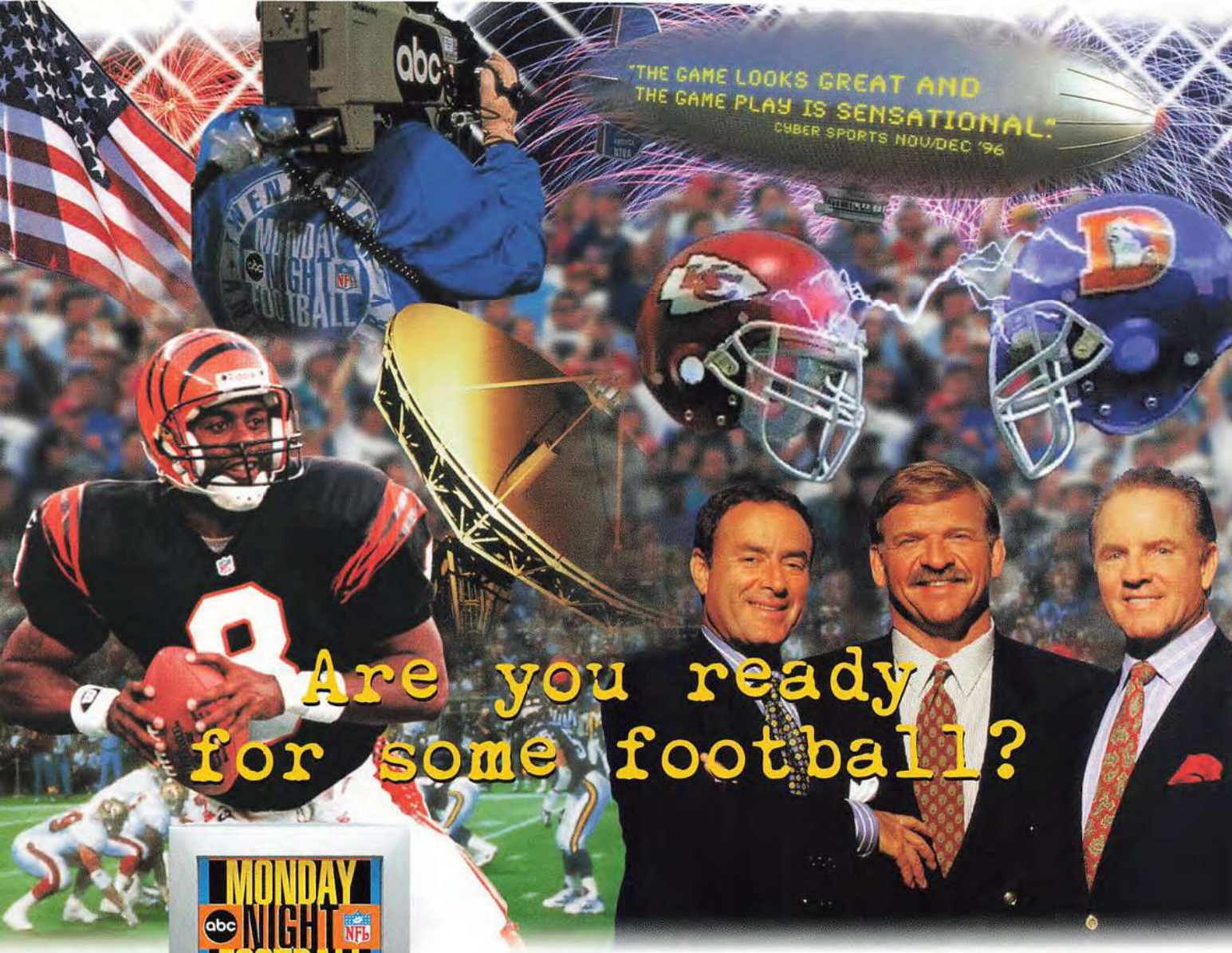
AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	10	5	0
Jacksonville	8	7	0
Cincinnati	7	8	0
Houston	7	8	0
Baltimore	4	11	0

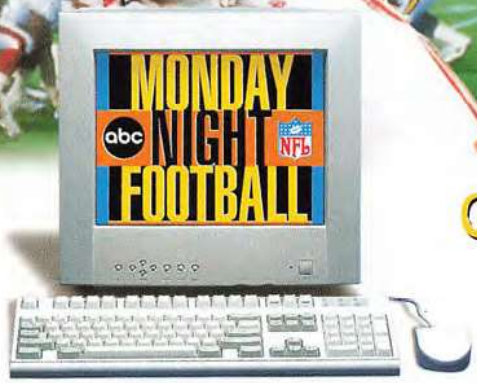
AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	13	2	0
Kansas City	9	6	0
Oakland	7	8	0
San Diego	7	8	0
Seattle	6	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	10	5	0
Philadelphia	9	6	0
Washington	8	7	0
Arizona	7	8	0
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	12	3	0
Minnesota	9	6	0
Chicago	7	8	0
Detroit	5	10	0
Tampa Bay	5	10	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	11	4	0
San Francisco	11	4	0
St. Louis	5	10	0
Atlanta	3	12	0
New Orleans	3	12	0





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re-play week 17 '96

Sudden Death

The Chiefs and Bills knew that if Jacksonville won, their game at Buffalo essentially was a playoff game: The winner would play the following week, the loser's season was over.

The Bills survived, winning 20-9 behind a pair of 4-yard touchdown passes from Jim Kelly in the fourth quarter. The first, to tight end Tony Cline, gave Buffalo the lead for good with 12:23 to go in the game. The second, to Quinn Early, came with 4:13 to play.

Kansas City, which managed only 3 field goals on four trips inside Buffalo's 20-yard line, lost for the fourth time in five games down the stretch and failed to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1989.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Early insured the Chiefs' exit.

Giant Returns

Former Giants head coach Bill Parcells faced his old team for the first time as coach of the Patriots and escaped with a 23-22 victory that secured a first-round bye in the playoffs for the AFC East champions.

It was an emotional win for Parcells, who led the Giants to victories in Super Bowls XXI and XXV. New England trailed 22-0 at halftime but rallied behind quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who passed for 237 yards and 2 touchdowns in the second half. Bledsoe teamed with Terry Glenn on a 26-yard touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter, and won the game with a fourth-down, 13-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ben Coates with 1:23 left.

In between, the Patriots got a big play from David Meggett, another former Giant. Meggett returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown to pull New England within 22-17 with 11:09 to play.

JIM TURNER

David Meggett

Grand Finale

It was fitting that RFK Stadium, home to many epic Redskins-Cowboys games over the years, should host the two long-time rivals in its final game as an NFL stadium. After 36 seasons in the Washington, D.C., venue, the Redskins will play in a new suburban stadium a few miles away in 1997.

Washington gave its fans something to remember with a 37-10 thrashing of Dallas. Terry Allen rushed for 3 touchdowns to key the Redskins' rout. Washington, which was eliminated from the playoffs a week earlier, finished 9-7, its best record since 1992.

Nine Lives

When the Falcons' Morten Andersen lined up a potential game-winning field goal from 30 yards in the final seconds of his team's game at Jacksonville, it appeared the Jaguars would not survive the playoff chase.

But Andersen, a seven-time Pro Bowl kicker who had not missed from 30 yards or closer since 1989, inexplicably pushed the ball wide left, and Jacksonville won 19-17. The Jaguars' fifth consecutive victory earned them a wild-card berth.

Carolina, the other second-year expansion team, beat Pittsburgh 18-14 to earn a bye in the opening round of the playoffs. The Steelers drove to the Panthers' 29-, 6-, and 1-yard lines on their last three possessions, but failed to score. Pittsburgh's last chance ended with safety Chad Cota's end-zone interception on third-and-goal from the 8 with 29 seconds to play, giving Carolina the NFC West title.

JIM TURNER

Karim Abdul-Jabbar

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 20, Kansas City 9
Cincinnati 31, Indianapolis 24
Houston 24, **Baltimore** 21
Miami 31, **N.Y. Jets** 28
San Diego 16, Denver 10
Seattle 28, **Oakland** 21
NFC
Green Bay 38, Minnesota 10
Philadelphia 29, Arizona 19
St. Louis 14, New Orleans 13
San Francisco 24, Detroit 14
Tampa Bay 34, Chicago 19
Washington 37, Dallas 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 18, Pittsburgh 14
Jacksonville 19, Atlanta 17
New England 23, **N.Y. Giants** 22
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Kordell Stewart ran 80 yards for a touchdown in Pittsburgh's loss to Carolina. It was the longest run in NFL history by a quarterback ...Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 152 yards in Miami's 31-28 victory over the Jets. The rookie became the Dolphins' first 1,000-yard rusher in 18 years, finishing the season with 1,116...In Buffalo's victory over the Chiefs, Thurman Thomas eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing mark (1,033) for an NFL record-tying eighth consecutive season...The 49ers' 24-14 victory over the Lions Monday night had little effect on the season standings, but it did decide the 1996 NFL rushing (Detroit's Barry Sanders), passing (San Francisco's Steve Young), and receiving (the 49ers' Jerry Rice) champions.

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	11	5	0
Buffalo	10	6	0
Indianapolis	9	7	0
Miami	8	8	0
N.Y. Jets	1	15	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	10	6	0
Jacksonville	9	7	0
Cincinnati	8	8	0
Houston	8	8	0
Baltimore	4	12	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	13	3	0
Kansas City	9	7	0
San Diego	8	8	0
Oakland	7	9	0
Seattle	7	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	10	6	0
Philadelphia	10	6	0
Washington	9	7	0
Arizona	7	9	0
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	13	3	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	5	11	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	12	4	0
San Francisco	12	4	0
St. Louis	6	10	0
Atlanta	3	13	0
New Orleans	3	13	0

re-play week 18 '96

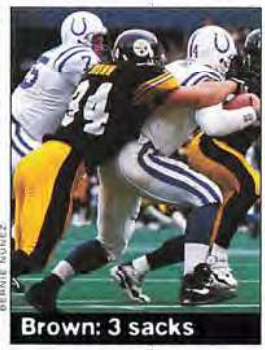
AFC Wild Card Games

Experience Counts

Means was a force.

The Jacksonville Jaguars are a second-year expansion team, but half their roster has playoff experience, and that helped carry them to a surprise 30-27 victory over the Buffalo Bills in the first round of the AFC playoffs.

The Jaguars won the first postseason game in franchise history and handed the Bills their first playoff loss ever at Rich Stadium. They were led by running back Natrone Means, a veteran of San Diego's 1994 AFC championship team, who rushed for a career-high 175 yards and a touchdown on 31 carries.


Brown: 3 sacks

Mike Hollis kicked 3 field goals for Jacksonville, including the game winner from 45 yards with 3:07 to play. The ball hit the right upright but ricocheted through.

Jacksonville had tied the game at 27-27 on Mark Brunell's 2-yard pass to Jimmy Smith with 8:40 remaining. The Jaguars then forced scrambling Bills quarterback Jim Kelly to fumble four plays later. Cornerback Aaron Beasley recovered at the Jaguars' 42, and a 31-yard drive set up the winning field goal.

The victory was the sixth in a row for Jacksonville. Those victories came by a combined total of 24 points.

Sunday Drive

Trailing by one point at halftime, the Steelers mounted a lengthy touchdown march to ignite an explosive second half that produced a 42-14 victory over the Colts.

Indianapolis led 14-13 until Pittsburgh took possession at the start of the second half and executed a 16-play, 91-yard touchdown drive that consumed 9:30 of the third quarter. Jerome Bettis's 1-yard run gave the Steelers a lead they would not relinquish.

The Colts never threatened again. Bettis, who rushed for 102 yards on 25 carries, ran 1 yard for a touchdown to increase Pittsburgh's advantage to 28-14 less than a minute into the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach.

The Steelers' defense overpowered Indianapolis, harassing quarterback Jim Harbaugh into only 12 complete passes in 32 attempts for 134 yards. Linebacker Chad Brown had 3 of Pittsburgh's 4 sacks.

NFC Wild Card Games

Winner and Still (Defending) Champion

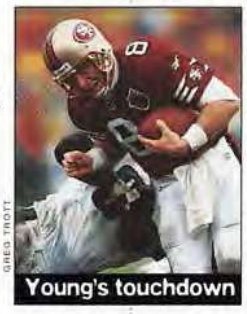
Teague's interception

Safety George Teague forced 2 fumbles and returned an interception 29 yards for a touchdown, and the Cowboys' previously lackluster offense finally got on track as the Super Bowl XXX champions blasted the Vikings 40-15.

Teague's big plays all came in the first half as Dallas built an insurmountable 30-0 advantage.

Dallas's offense, which averaged 297.7 yards during the regular season to rank twenty-fourth in the NFL, exploded for 438 yards against the Vikings. The Cowboys struck early with an 88-yard touchdown drive on their first possession.

Emmitt Smith finished with 116 yards rushing on 17 carries, Troy Aikman passed for 178 yards and ran for a touchdown, and Michael Irvin caught 8 passes for 103 yards. The 40 points marked a season high for Dallas.


Young's touchdown

Swamp Things

Steve Young passed for 1 touchdown and ran for another to lead the 49ers to a 14-0 victory over the Eagles at rain-swept 3Com Park.

Afterwards, San Francisco coach George Seifert joked about winning in the "swampy tundra" of his team's home stadium.

But it was no laughing matter for the Eagles. The wind, rain, and mud made for treacherous playing conditions that limited scoring and magnified mistakes—and Philadelphia's mistakes proved to be the difference.

In the first half, Philadelphia controlled the football for 19 minutes, limited the 49ers to 92 total yards, and permitted San Francisco to cross midfield only once, but trailed 7-0 on Young's 9-yard run 3:50 into the second quarter.

The Eagles reached the 49ers' 14 on their first possession, but a third-down sack forced Gary Anderson's 40-yard field-goal attempt, which sailed wide left. Consecutive drives deep into San Francisco territory in the second quarter ended with an end-zone interception by cornerback Marquez Pope and a goal-line interception by defensive end Roy Barker.

Young's 3-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Rice late in the third quarter put the game out of reach.

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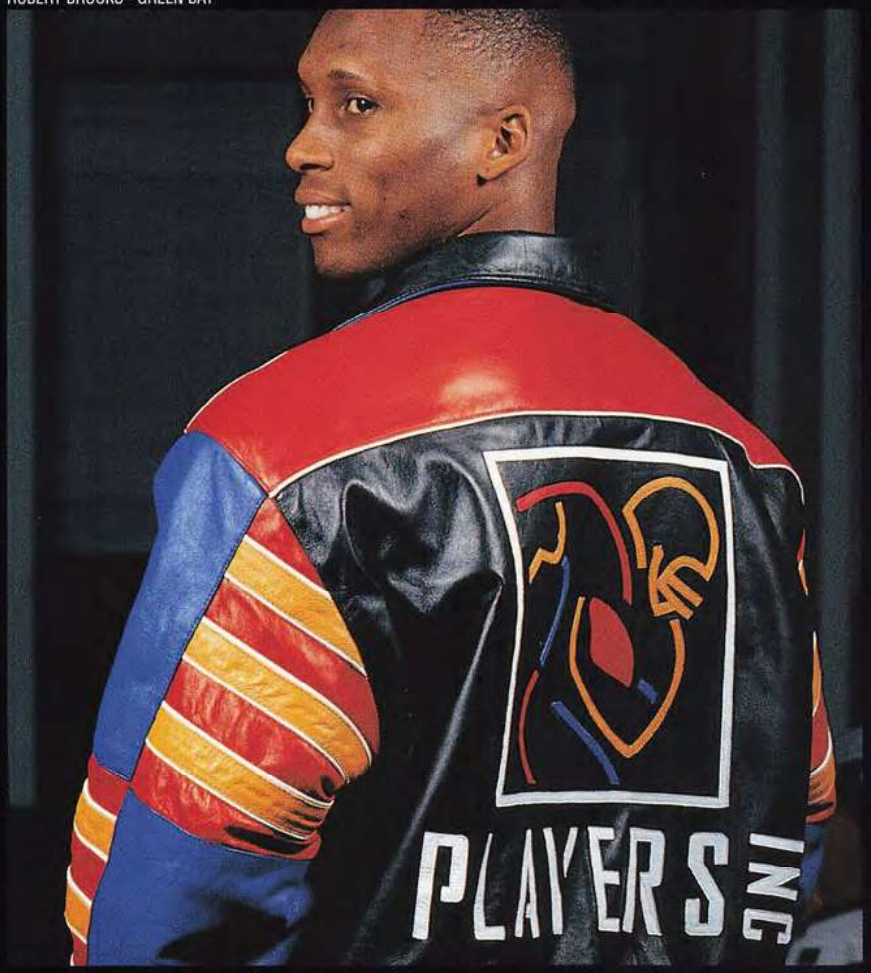

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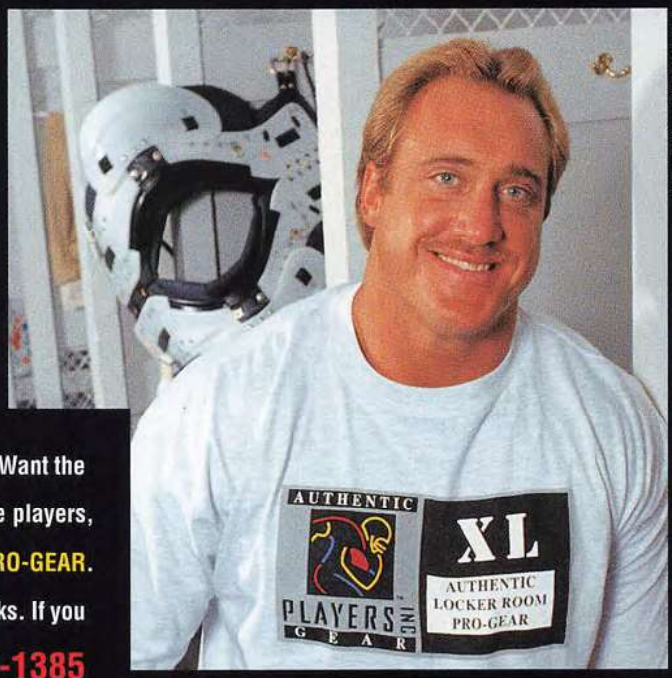

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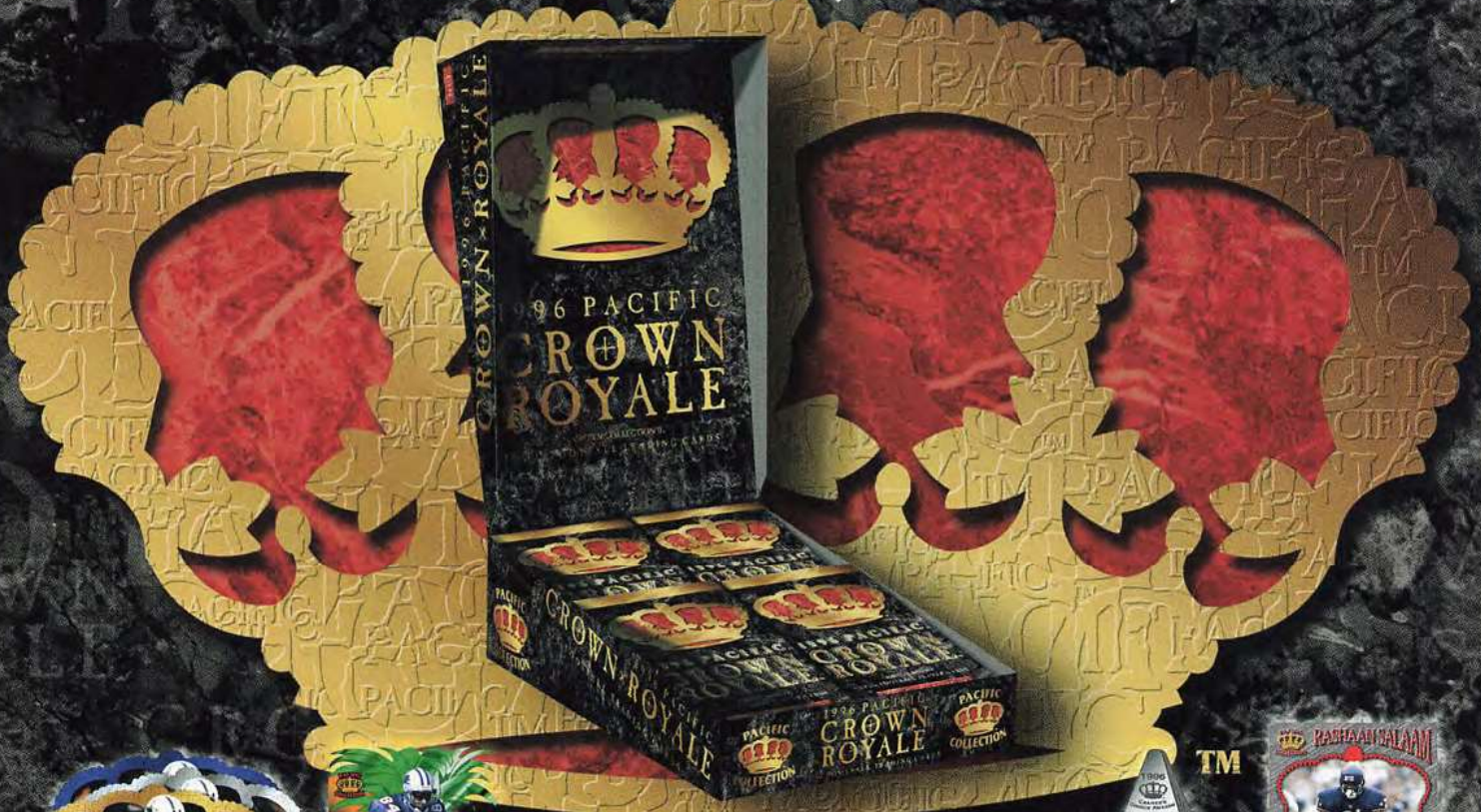

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re-play week 19 '96

AFC Divisional Playoffs

Bucking the Broncos

The Jacksonville Jaguars' improbable second-year run reached new heights when they eliminated the top-seeded Broncos 30-27 in Denver Mile High Stadium.

It was the Jaguars' seventh consecutive victory, the wins coming by 3, 3, 6, 7, 2, 3, and 3 points.

This one wasn't as close as some of the others, however. After spotting Denver a 12-0 lead in the first quarter, Jacksonville scored on its next six possessions, built double-digit leads twice in the fourth quarter, and secured the upset victory on the running and passing of quarterback Mark Brunell.

Mike Hollis's third field goal of the game, from 22 yards 4:09 into the fourth quarter, gave the Jaguars their biggest lead at 23-12. Denver countered with a 57-yard drive capped by Terrell Davis's 2-yard touchdown run with 7:37 to play. Davis's two-point conversion run pulled the Broncos within 23-20.

The clinching touchdown pass

ALLEN KEE

But Brunell scrambled for 12 and 29 yards, then threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Smith for the clinching score with 3:39 remaining.

Brunell finished with 245 yards passing and 44 running. Natrone Means rushed for 140 yards on 21 carries.

Patriot Missile

Drew Bledsoe fired a 53-yard strike to Terry Glenn on New England's first play from scrimmage, setting up Curtis Martin's 2-yard touchdown run on the next play, to start the Patriots' 28-3 rout of the defending AFC-champion Steelers.

The Patriots struck early.

BERNIE NUNEZ

New England, wary of the ball-control offense and suffocating defense that carried Pittsburgh to the Central Division title and a wild-card playoff victory over the Colts, never looked back.

The Patriots struck quickly again on their second possession, with Bledsoe passing 34 yards to Keith Byars for a 14-0 lead just 7:05 into the game.

Martin, who gained 166 yards on only 19 carries, raced 78 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter and closed the scoring with a 23-yard run in the fourth period.

New England won a playoff game at home for the first time in franchise history.

NFC Divisional Playoffs

Nothing Could Be Finer

Kerry Collins threw 2 touchdown passes and Carolina rewarded a raucous home crowd with a 26-17 defeat of Dallas.

Green made it 14-3.

JAMES D. SMITH

Collins staked the Panthers to a 14-3 lead 17 minutes into the game with touchdown passes of 1-yard to Wesley Walls and 10 yards to Willie Green.

The Cowboys pulled within 17-14 early in the third quarter, but Carolina turned things over to running back Anthony Johnson, who gained 104 yards on 26 carries, and John Kasay, who kicked 3 field goals in the second half.

Meanwhile, the Panthers' defense kept Dallas from mounting a serious threat. Carolina intercepted Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman 3 times, limited Emmitt Smith to 80 yards rushing, and held Dallas to field goals three times after first-and-goal situations.

The Panthers won for the ninth time without a defeat at Ericsson Stadium.

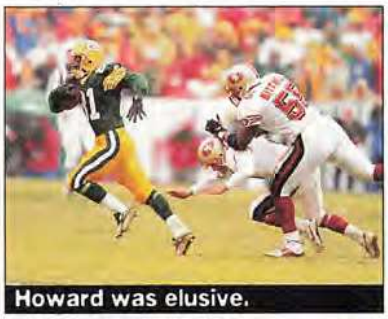
Howard's End

Former Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard's first-quarter punt returns sparked the Green Bay Packers to a convincing 35-14 victory over the 49ers.

Since the Redskins took him with the fourth pick of the 1992 draft, Howard had a largely undistinguished NFL career in four seasons with Washington and Jacksonville.

But Packers coach Mike Holmgren took a chance on the speedy wide receiver, signing him to a free-agent contract prior to the 1996 season. Howard kept his end of the bargain by setting an NFL record for punt-return yards (875) during the regular season. Against San Francisco, he returned a punt 71 yards for a touchdown 2:15 into the game, then broke loose for a 46-yard return 5:45 later to set up Brett Favre's 4-yard touchdown pass to Andre Rison.

The 49ers fell behind 21-0, then rallied to within 7 points by taking advantage of a pair of miscues by Green Bay's special teams. But the Packers kept San Francisco at arm's reach with a 12-play, 72-yard drive that consumed 7:54 and was capped by Antonio Freeman's fumble recovery in the end zone for a touchdown and a 28-14 lead.



Howard was elusive.

BOB ROSATO

re-play week 20 '96

AFC Championship Game

Defense Initiative

With New England's normally potent offense struggling, the Patriots' defense stepped up to key a 20-6 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the AFC Championship Game.

Clay thwarted the Jaguars' rally.

DAVE DRASKIN

New England thus qualified for its second Super Bowl 11 years to the day after earning its first trip, Super Bowl XX in New Orleans (also the site of Super Bowl XXXI). And New England did it by denying the Jaguars the chance to join the Patriots' 1985 team as the only teams to qualify for the Super Bowl by winning three consecutive postseason games on the road.

New England took the lead just 2:26 into the game and never relinquished it.

Shawn Jefferson

DAVE DRASKIN

Jacksonville failed to make a first down on the game's initial possession, and a high snap from punt formation enabled Larry Whigham to drop Bryan Barker for a 16-yard loss, giving the Patriots possession on the Jaguars' 4-yard line. Two plays later, running back Curtis Martin scored his fourth touchdown of the postseason.

It was 13-6 in the fourth quarter when Jacksonville—which won four games with fourth-quarter comebacks in 1996—mounted a serious threat to tie, marching to a first-and-goal at the Patriots' 7 with less than five minutes remaining. But on second down from the 5, safety Willie Clay stepped in front of Mark Brunell's pass for tight end Derek Brown and intercepted.

Jacksonville had another chance after forcing a punt, but linebacker Chris Slade stripped the ball from running back James Stewart, and cornerback Otis Smith returned the fumble 47 yards for the clinching touchdown with 2:24 left.

New England gained only 234 total yards but limited Jacksonville, the NFL's second-rated offense during the regular season, to 289 total yards. The Patriots, who have not allowed a touchdown in eight quarters of the playoffs (and 10 quarters in all) forced 4 turnovers, including 3 in the last 3:43.

Natrone Means, who ran for 315 yards in the Jaguars' two playoff victories, had only 48 yards.

NFC Championship Game

Levens's Worth

Levens's touchdown

BOB ROSATO

Dorsey Levens gained 205 yards from scrimmage and caught a touchdown pass to lead Green Bay to a 30-13 victory over Carolina in the NFC Championship Game.

The Packers, in winning their eighteenth consecutive game at Lambeau Field and their ninth without a defeat there in the postseason, qualified for their first Super Bowl in 29 years—since Super Bowl II.

Levens is a lesser-known cog in Green Bay's offense, which includes stars such as Brett Favre, Antonio Freeman, Edgar Bennett, and Mark Chmura. But the third-year fullback proved his value to the mix by catching 5 passes for 117 yards, rushing for 88 yards, and making big plays while the game still was close.

Reggie White (92)

TODD ROSENBERG

His 29-yard touchdown catch came on the first play of the second quarter, with the Packers trailing 7-0 and stuggling to get on track. And with Green Bay nursing a 20-13 lead in the third quarter, he took a screen pass from Favre and turned it into a 66-yard gain, setting up Bennett's 4-yard run for the back-breaking touchdown.

The Panthers led 10-7 until the Packers took control of the game by maintaining possession for all but 23 seconds of a span of 15:24 during the second and third quarters to build a 20-10 lead.

The stretch began with a 15-play, 71-yard drive that consumed 7:52 and was capped by Favre's 6-yard touchdown pass to Freeman with 48 seconds left in the second quarter.

Packers cornerback Tyrone Williams then made a falling, one-hand interception of a pass by Kerry Collins on Carolina's next play from scrimmage, and Green Bay converted that into Chris Jacke's 31-yard field goal for a 17-10 advantage at the intermission.

The Packers took the second-half kickoff and held the ball for 6:44, marching 73 yards in 11 plays to a 32-yard field goal by Jacke.

Favre overcame a slow start to complete 19 of 29 passes for 292 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Bennett rushed for 99 yards as Green Bay amassed 479 total yards (201 rushing, 278 passing), well above the 299 yards per game the Panthers allowed during the regular season.

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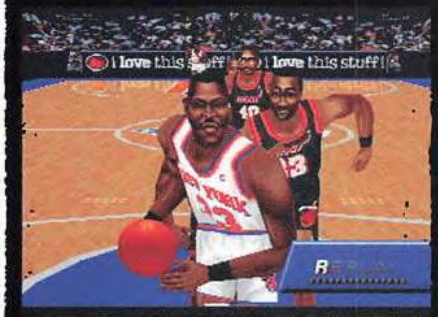

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PLAY FOOTBALL

PLAYERS INC

1996 individual statistics

AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
John Elway, Denver	466	287	61.6	3,328	7.14	26	5.6	51	14	3.0	89.2
Vinny Testaverde, Baltimore	549	325	59.2	4,177	7.61	32	6.0	86t	19	3.5	88.7
Dan Marino, Miami	373	221	59.2	2,795	7.49	17	4.6	74t	9	2.4	87.8
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville	557	353	63.4	4,367	7.84	19	3.4	62	20	3.6	84.0
Drew Bledsoe, New England	623	373	59.9	4,086	6.56	27	4.3	84t	15	2.4	83.7
Jeff Hostetler, Oakland	402	242	60.2	2,548	6.34	23	5.7	62t	14	3.5	83.2
Jeff Blake, Cincinnati	549	308	56.1	3,624	6.60	24	4.4	61t	14	2.6	80.3
Chris Chandler, Houston	320	184	57.5	2,099	6.56	16	5.0	63t	11	3.4	79.7
Stan Humphries, San Diego	416	232	55.8	2,670	6.42	18	4.3	63t	13	3.1	76.7
Jim Harbaugh, Indianapolis	405	232	57.3	2,630	6.49	13	3.2	51	11	2.7	76.3

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Steve Young, San Francisco	316	214	67.7	2,410	7.63	14	4.4	52	6	1.9	97.2
Brett Favre, Green Bay	543	325	59.9	3,899	7.18	39	7.2	80t	13	2.4	95.8
Brad Johnson, Minnesota	311	195	62.7	2,258	7.26	17	5.5	82t	10	3.2	89.4
Ty Detmer, Philadelphia	401	238	59.4	2,911	7.26	15	3.7	42	13	3.2	80.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas	465	296	63.7	3,126	6.72	12	2.6	61	13	2.8	80.1
Kerry Collins, Carolina	364	204	56.0	2,454	6.74	14	3.8	55	9	2.5	79.4
Gus Frerotte, Washington	470	270	57.4	3,453	7.35	12	2.6	52t	11	2.3	79.3
Dave Krieg, Chicago	377	226	59.9	2,278	6.04	14	3.7	53t	12	3.2	76.3
Kent Graham, Arizona	274	146	53.3	1,624	5.93	12	4.4	69	7	2.6	75.1
Scott Mitchell, Detroit	437	253	57.9	2,917	6.68	17	3.9	62t	17	3.9	74.9

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Terrell Davis, Denver	345	1538	4.5	71t	13
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	320	1431	4.5	50t	11
Eddie George, Houston	335	1368	4.1	76	8
Adrian Murrell, NY Jets	301	1249	4.1	78	6
Curtis Martin, New England	316	1152	3.6	57	14
Karim Abdul-Jabbar, Miami	307	1116	3.6	29	11
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	281	1033	3.7	36	8
Napoleon Kaufman, Oakland	150	874	5.8	77	1
Chris Warren, Seattle	203	855	4.2	51	5
Garrison Hearst, Cincinnati	225	847	3.8	24	0

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Barry Sanders, Detroit	307	1553	5.1	54t	11
Ricky Watters, Philadelphia	353	1411	4.0	56t	13
Terry Allen, Washington	347	1353	3.9	49t	21
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	327	1204	3.7	42	12
Anthony Johnson, Carolina	300	1120	3.7	29	6
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta	232	1055	4.5	32t	5
Edgar Bennett, Green Bay	222	899	4.0	23	2
Rodney Hampton, NY Giants	254	827	3.3	25	1
Raymont Harris, Chicago	194	748	3.9	23	4
Robert Smith, Minnesota	162	692	4.3	57	3

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Curtis Martin, New England	17	14	3	0	104
Terrell Davis, Denver	15	13	2	0	90
Michael Jackson, Baltimore	14	0	14	0	88
Tony Martin, San Diego	14	0	14	0	84
Carl Pickens, Cincinnati	12	0	12	0	74
Karim Abdul-Jabbar, Miami	11	11	0	0	66
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	11	11	0	0	66
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	10	0	10	0	60
James Stewart, Jacksonville	10	8	2	0	60
Derrick Alexander, Baltimore	9	0	9	0	56
Ben Coates, New England	9	0	9	0	56

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Terry Allen, Washington	21	21	0	0	126
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	15	12	3	0	90
Ricky Watters, Philadelphia	13	13	0	0	78
Irving Fryar, Philadelphia	11	0	11	0	66
Eddie Kennison, St. Louis	11	0	9	2	66
Barry Sanders, Detroit	11	11	0	0	66
Cris Carter, Minnesota	10	0	10	0	60
Keith Jackson, Green Bay	10	0	10	0	60
Dorsey Levens, Green Bay	10	5	5	0	60
Wesley Walls, Carolina	10	0	10	0	60

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
Cary Blanchard, Indianapolis	27/27	36/40	52	135
Al Del Greco, Houston	35/35	32/38	56	131
Adam Vinatieri, New England	39/42	27/35	50	120
John Carney, San Diego	31/31	29/36	53	118
Mike Hollis, Jacksonville	27/27	30/36	53	117
Todd Peterson, Seattle	27/27	28/34	54	111
Doug Pelfrey, Cincinnati	41/41	23/28	49	110
Jason Elam, Denver	46/46	21/28	51	109
Cole Ford, Oakland	36/36	24/31	47	108
Norm Johnson, Pittsburgh	37/37	23/30	49	106

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
John Kasay, Carolina	34/35	37/45	53	145
Jeff Wilkins, San Francisco	40/40	30/34	49	130
Chris Boniol, Dallas	24/25	32/36	52	120
Scott Blanton, Washington	40/40	26/32	53	118
Gary Anderson, Philadelphia	40/40	25/29	46	115
Chris Jacke, Green Bay	51/53	21/27	53	114
Morten Andersen, Atlanta	31/31	22/29	54	97
Scott Sisson, Minnesota	30/30	22/29	44	96
Brad Daluiso, NY Giants	22/22	24/27	46	94
Michael Husted, Tampa Bay	18/19	25/32	50	93

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carl Pickens, Cincinnati	100	1180	11.8	61t	12
Terry Glenn, New England	90	1132	12.6	37t	6
Tim Brown, Oakland	90	1104	12.3	42t	9
Tony Martin, San Diego	85	1171	13.8	55	14
Keenan McCardell, Jack.	85	1129	13.3	52	3
Wayne Chrebet, NY Jets	84	909	10.8	44	3
Jimmy Smith, Jacksonville	83	1244	15.0	62	7
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	80	1062	13.3	51	10
Michael Jackson, Baltimore	76	1201	15.8	86t	14
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	74	918	12.4	36	8

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	108	1254	11.6	39	8
Herman Moore, Detroit	106	1296	12.2	50t	9
Larry Centers, Arizona	99	766	7.7	39	7
Cris Carter, Minnesota	96	1163	12.1	43t	10
Brett Perriman, Detroit	94	1021	10.9	44	5
Irving Fryar, Philadelphia	88	1195	13.6	42	11
Isaac Bruce, St.Louis	84	1338	15.9	70	7
Curtis Conway, Chicago	81	1049	13.0	58t	7
Bert Emanuel, Atlanta	76	931	12.3	53	6
Jake Reed, Minnesota	72	1320	18.3	82t	7

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
John Kidd, Miami	78	3611	63	46.3
Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis	68	3105	61	45.7
Darren Bennett, San Diego	87	3967	66	45.6
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	80	3630	67	45.4
Brian Hansen, NY Jets	74	3311	69	44.7
Reggie Roby, Houston	67	2973	68	44.4
Rick Tuten, Seattle	85	3746	66	44.1
Greg Montgomery, Baltimore	68	2980	67	43.8
Bryan Barker, Jacksonville	69	3016	62	43.7
Tom Tupa, New England	63	2739	62	43.5

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Matt Turk, Washington	75	3386	63	45.1
Sean Landeta, St.Louis	78	3491	70	44.8
Todd Sauerbrun, Chicago	78	3491	72	44.8
Tommy Thompson, San Francisco	73	3217	65	44.1
Jeff Feagles, Arizona	76	3328	68	43.8
Mark Royals, Detroit	69	3020	60	43.8
Tommy Barnhardt, Tampa Bay	70	3015	62	43.1
John Jett, Dallas	74	3150	60	42.6
Tom Hutton, Philadelphia	73	3107	60	42.6
Craig Hentrich, Green Bay	68	2886	65	42.4

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Darrien Gordon, San Diego	36	537	14.9	81t	1
Rod Smith, Denver	23	283	12.3	36	0
Todd Kinchen, Denver	26	300	11.5	40	0
David Meggett, New England	52	588	11.3	60t	1
Chris Hudson, Jacksonville	32	348	10.9	60	0
Jeff Burris, Buffalo	27	286	10.6	45	0
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	22	212	9.6	19	0
Jermaine Lewis, Baltimore	36	339	9.4	46	0
Mel Gray, Houston	22	205	9.3	40	0
Tim Brown, Oakland	32	272	8.5	36	0

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Desmond Howard, Green Bay	58	875	15.1	92t	3
Eddie Kennison, St.Louis	29	423	14.6	78t	2
Winslow Oliver, Carolina	52	598	11.5	84t	1
Brian Mitchell, Washington	23	258	11.2	71	0
Eric Metcalf, Atlanta	27	296	11.0	39	0
David Palmer, Minnesota	22	216	9.8	69t	1
Kelvin Martin, Dallas	41	373	9.1	22	0
Bobby Engram, Chicago	31	282	9.1	34	0
Dexter Carter, San Francisco	36	317	8.8	52	0
Marcus Dowdell, Arizona	34	297	8.7	35	0

AFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	33	854	25.9	97t	1
Mel Gray, Houston	50	1224	24.5	88	0
Vaughn Hebron, Denver	45	1099	24.4	59	0
Irving Spikes, Miami	28	681	24.3	59	0
Aaron Bailey, Indianapolis	43	1041	24.2	95t	1
Jerome Woods, Kansas City	25	581	23.2	66	0
Eric Moulds, Buffalo	52	1205	23.2	97t	1
David Meggett, New England	34	781	23.0	54	0
Steve Broussard, Seattle	43	979	22.8	86	0
David Dunn, Cincinnati	35	782	22.3	90t	1

NFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Michael Bates, Carolina	33	998	30.2	93t	1
Herschel Walker, Dallas	27	779	28.9	89	0
Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans	70	1791	25.6	58	0
Glyn Milburn, Detroit	64	1627	25.4	65	0
Derrick Witherspoon, Phil.	53	1271	24.0	97t	2
Bobby Engram, Chicago	25	580	23.2	45	0
Jack Jackson, Chicago	27	619	22.9	60	0
Brian Mitchell, Washington	56	1258	22.5	50	0
Kevin Williams, Dallas	21	471	22.4	39	0
Nilo Silvan, Tampa Bay	28	626	22.4	54	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Tyrone Braxton, Denver	9	128	69t	1
Ashley Ambrose, Cincinnati	8	63	31t	1
Terrell Buckley, Miami	6	164	91t	1
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	6	121	43t	1
Mark Collins, Kansas City	6	45	23	0
Terry McDaniel, Oakland	5	150	56t	1
Darryl Williams, Seattle	5	148	79t	1
Darren Perry, Pittsburgh	5	115	28	1
Darryll Lewis, Houston	5	103	53	1
Antonio Langham, Baltimore	5	59	28	0
Rodney Harrison, San Diego	5	56	29	0
Jimmy Spencer, Cincinnati	5	48	34	0
Eric Turner, Baltimore	5	1	1	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Keith Lyle, St. Louis	9	152	68	0
Eugene Robinson, Green Bay	6	107	39	0
Marquez Pope, San Francisco	6	98	55t	1
Aeneas Williams, Arizona	6	89	65t	1
Donnell Woolford, Chicago	6	37	28t	1
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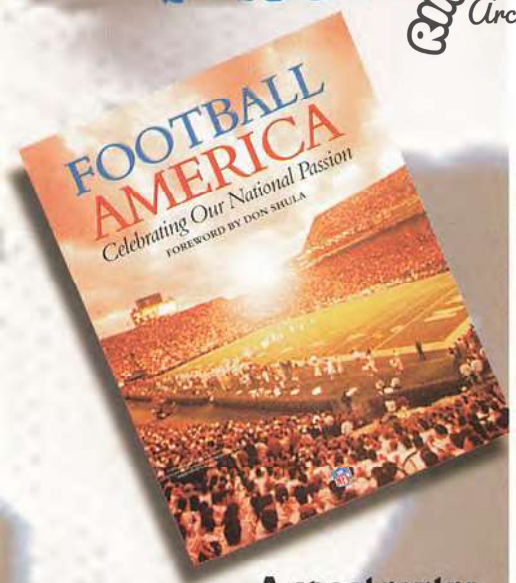

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*Bruce Armstrong, *New England*
Richmond Webb, *Miami*

Guards
*Bruce Matthews, *Houston*
*Will Shields, *Kansas City*
Ruben Brown, *Buffalo*

Centers
*Dermontti Dawson, *Pittsburgh*
Mark Stepnoski, *Houston*

Tight Ends
*Shannon Sharpe, *Denver*
Ben Coates, *New England*

Quarterbacks
*John Elway, *Denver*
Drew Bledsoe, *New England*
Vinny Testaverde, *Baltimore*

Running Backs
*Terrell Davis, *Denver*
*Jerome Bettis, *Pittsburgh*
Curtis Martin, *New England*

Fullback
Kimble Anders, *Kansas City*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Bruce Smith, *Buffalo*
*Alfred Williams, *Denver*
Michael Sinclair, *Seattle*

Defensive Linemen
*Cortez Kennedy, *Seattle*
*Chester McGlockton, *Oakland*
Michael Dean Perry, *Denver*

Outside Linebackers
*Derrick Thomas, *Kansas City*
*Chad Brown, *Pittsburgh*
Bryce Paup, *Buffalo*

Inside Linebackers
*Junior Seau, *San Diego*
Levon Kirkland, *Pittsburgh*

Cornerbacks
*Dale Carter, *Kansas City*
*Ashley Ambrose, *Cincinnati*
Rod Woodson, *Pittsburgh*

Strong Safeties
*Carnell Lake, *Pittsburgh*
Blaine Bishop, *Houston*

Free Safety
*Steve Atwater, *Denver*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Chris Gardocki, *Indianapolis*

Kicker
Cary Blanchard, *Indianapolis*

Kick Returner
David Meggett, *New England*

Special Teamer
John Henry Mills, *Houston*

National Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Jerry Rice, *San Francisco*
*Herman Moore, *Detroit*
Isaac Bruce, *St. Louis*
Cris Carter, *Minnesota*

Tackles
*Erik Williams, *Dallas*
*William Roaf, *New Orleans*
Lomas Brown, *Arizona*

Guards
*Larry Allen, *Dallas*
*Randall McDaniel, *Minnesota*
Nate Newton, *Dallas*

Centers
*Kevin Glover, *Detroit*
Ray Donaldson, *Dallas*

Tight Ends
*Wesley Walls, *Carolina*
Keith Jackson, *Green Bay*

Quarterbacks
*Brett Favre, *Green Bay*
Troy Aikman, *Dallas*
Steve Young, *San Francisco*

Running Backs
*Barry Sanders, *Detroit*
*Terry Allen, *Washington*
Ricky Watters, *Philadelphia*

Fullback
Larry Centers, *Arizona*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Reggie White, *Green Bay*
*Tony Tolbert, *Dallas*
William Fuller, *Philadelphia*

Defensive Linemen
*John Randle, *Minnesota*
*Bryant Young, *San Francisco*
Eric Swann, *Arizona*

Outside Linebackers
*Kevin Greene, *Carolina*
*Lamar Lathon, *Carolina*
Ken Harvey, *Washington*

Inside Linebackers
*Sam Mills, *Carolina*
Hardy Nickerson, *Tampa Bay*

Cornerbacks
*Deion Sanders, *Dallas*
*Aeneas Williams, *Arizona*
Eric Davis, *San Francisco*

Strong Safeties
*LeRoy Butler, *Green Bay*
Darren Woodson, *Dallas*

Free Safety
*Merton Hanks, *San Francisco*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Matt Turk, *Washington*

Kicker
John Kasay, *Carolina*

Kick Returner
Michael Bates, *Carolina*

Special Teamer
Jim Schwantz, *Dallas*

**denotes starter*

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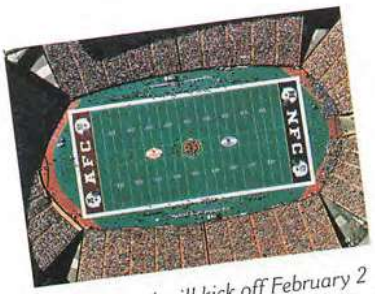
SEE YOU IN HAWAI'I NEXT WEEK.



The Pro Bowl will kick off February 2 on the island of O'ahu at Aloha Stadium.

Top players in Super Bowl XXXI will be heading to the Pro Bowl in Hawai'i next week. You're invited, too, and before or after the game there are six points *you* should make.

These are the six major islands of Hawai'i: O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and The Big Island. They offer astonishing variety, from electric nightlife to bird-filled rain forests, from relaxed sunbathing to erupting volcanoes.

While each island is different, every one will welcome you with Hawaii's unique Aloha Spirit that soothes and restores body and soul. After all, why do you think the Pros like to finish the season here?

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HAWAI'I
The Islands of Aloha

1996 NFC Results & Standings

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Sept. 1	at Indianapolis	13-20
Sept. 8	**MIAMI**	10-38
Sept. 15	at New England	0-31
Sept. 22	at New Orleans	28-14
Sept. 29	**ST. LOUIS**	*31-28
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	at Dallas	3-17
Oct. 20	**TAMPA BAY**	13-9
Oct. 27	**NEW YORK JETS**	21-31
Nov. 3	at New York Giants	8-16
Nov. 10	at Washington	*37-34
Nov. 17	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	31-23
Nov. 24	**PHILADELPHIA**	36-30
Dec. 1	at Minnesota	17-41
Dec. 8	**DALLAS**	6-10
Dec. 15	**WASHINGTON**	27-26
Dec. 22	at Philadelphia	19-29

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 1	at Carolina	6-29
Sept. 8	**MINNESOTA**	17-23
Sept. 15	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 22	**PHILADELPHIA**	18-33
Sept. 29	at San Francisco	17-39
Oct. 6	at Detroit	24-28
Oct. 13	**HOUSTON**	13-23
Oct. 20	at Dallas	28-32
Oct. 27	**PITTSBURGH**	17-20
Nov. 3	**CAROLINA**	20-17
Nov. 10	at St. Louis	16-59
Nov. 17	**NEW ORLEANS**	17-15
Nov. 24	at Cincinnati	31-41
Dec. 2	**SAN FRANCISCO** (Mon.)	10-34
Dec. 8	at New Orleans	31-15
Dec. 15	**ST. LOUIS**	27-34
Dec. 22	at Jacksonville	17-19

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sept. 1	**ATLANTA**	29-6
Sept. 8	at New Orleans	22-20
Sept. 15	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 22	**SAN FRANCISCO**	23-7
Sept. 29	at Jacksonville	14-24
Oct. 6	at Minnesota	12-14
Oct. 13	**ST. LOUIS**	45-13
Oct. 20	**NEW ORLEANS**	19-7
Oct. 27	at Philadelphia	9-20
Nov. 3	at Atlanta	17-20
Nov. 10	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	27-17
Nov. 17	at St. Louis	20-10
Nov. 24	at Houston	31-6
Dec. 1	**TAMPA BAY**	24-0
Dec. 8	at San Francisco	30-24
Dec. 15	**BALTIMORE**	27-16
Dec. 22	**PITTSBURGH**	18-14

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 2	**DALLAS** (Mon.)	22-6
Sept. 8	at Washington	3-10
Sept. 15	**MINNESOTA**	14-20
Sept. 22	at Detroit	16-35
Sept. 29	**OAKLAND**	19-17
Oct. 6	**GREEN BAY**	6-37
Oct. 13	at New Orleans	24-27
Oct. 20	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	at Minnesota (Mon.)	15-13
Nov. 3	**TAMPA BAY**	13-10
Nov. 10	at Denver	12-17
Nov. 17	at Kansas City	10-14
Nov. 24	**DETROIT**	31-14
Dec. 1	at Green Bay	17-28
Dec. 8	**ST. LOUIS**	35-9
Dec. 14	**SAN DIEGO** (Sat.)	27-14
Dec. 22	at Tampa Bay	19-34

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 2	at Chicago (Mon.)	6-22
Sept. 8	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	27-0
Sept. 15	**INDIANAPOLIS**	24-25
Sept. 22	at Buffalo	7-10
Sept. 30	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	23-19
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	**ARIZONA**	17-3
Oct. 20	**ATLANTA**	32-28
Oct. 27	at Miami	29-10
Nov. 3	**PHILADELPHIA**	21-31
Nov. 10	at San Francisco	*20-17
Nov. 18	**GREEN BAY** (Mon.)	21-6
Nov. 24	at New York Giants	6-20
Nov. 28	**WASHINGTON** (Thurs.)	21-10
Dec. 8	at Arizona	10-6
Dec. 15	**NEW ENGLAND**	12-6
Dec. 22	at Washington	10-37

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 1	at Minnesota	13-17
Sept. 8	**TAMPA BAY**	21-6
Sept. 15	at Philadelphia	17-24
Sept. 22	**CHICAGO**	35-16
Sept. 29	at Tampa Bay	27-0
Oct. 6	**ATLANTA**	28-24
Oct. 13	at Oakland	21-37
Oct. 20	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 27	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	7-35
Nov. 3	at Green Bay	18-28
Nov. 11	at San Diego (Mon.)	21-27
Nov. 17	**SEATTLE**	17-16
Nov. 24	at Chicago	14-31
Nov. 28	**KANSAS CITY** (Thurs.)	24-28
Dec. 8	**MINNESOTA**	22-24
Dec. 15	**GREEN BAY**	3-31
Dec. 23	at San Francisco (Mon.)	14-24

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 1	at Tampa Bay	34-3
Sept. 9	**PHILADELPHIA** (Mon.)	39-13
Sept. 15	**SAN DIEGO**	42-10
Sept. 22	at Minnesota	21-30
Sept. 29	at Seattle	31-10
Oct. 6	at Chicago	37-6
Oct. 14	**SAN FRANCISCO** (Mon.)	*23-20
Oct. 20	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 27	**TAMPA BAY**	13-7
Nov. 3	**DETROIT**	28-18
Nov. 10	at Kansas City	20-27
Nov. 18	at Dallas (Mon.)	6-21
Nov. 24	at St. Louis	24-9
Dec. 1	**CHICAGO**	28-17
Dec. 8	**DENVER**	41-6
Dec. 15	at Detroit	31-3
Dec. 22	**MINNESOTA**	38-10

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 1	**DETROIT**	17-13
Sept. 8	at Atlanta	23-17
Sept. 15	at Chicago	20-14
Sept. 22	**GREEN BAY**	30-21
Sept. 29	at New York Giants	10-15
Oct. 6	**CAROLINA**	14-12
Oct. 13	at Tampa Bay	13-24
Oct. 20	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	**CHICAGO** (Mon.)	13-15
Nov. 3	**KANSAS CITY**	6-21
Nov. 10	at Seattle	23-42
Nov. 17	at Oakland	16-13
Nov. 24	**DENVER**	17-21
Dec. 1	**ARIZONA**	41-17
Dec. 8	at Detroit	24-22
Dec. 15	**TAMPA BAY**	21-10
Dec. 22	at Green Bay	10-38

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 1	at San Francisco	11-27
Sept. 8	**CAROLINA**	20-22
Sept. 15	at Cincinnati	15-30
Sept. 22	**ARIZONA**	14-28
Sept. 29	at Baltimore	10-17
Oct. 6	**JACKSONVILLE**	17-13
Oct. 13	**CHICAGO**	27-24
Oct. 20	at Carolina	7-19
Oct. 27	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 3	**SAN FRANCISCO**	17-24
Nov. 10	**HOUSTON**	14-31
Nov. 17	at Atlanta	15-17
Nov. 24	at Tampa Bay	7-13
Dec. 1	**ST. LOUIS**	10-26
Dec. 8	**ATLANTA**	15-31
Dec. 15	at New York Giants	17-3
Dec. 21	at St. Louis (Sat.)	13-14

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 1	**BUFFALO**	*20-23
Sept. 8	at Dallas	0-27
Sept. 15	**WASHINGTON**	10-31
Sept. 22	at New York Jets	13-6
Sept. 29	**MINNESOTA**	15-10
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	**PHILADELPHIA**	10-19
Oct. 20	at Washington	21-31
Oct. 27	at Detroit	35-7
Nov. 3	**ARIZONA**	16-8
Nov. 10	at Carolina	17-27
Nov. 17	at Arizona	23-31
Nov. 24	**DALLAS**	20-6
Dec. 1	at Philadelphia	0-24
Dec. 8	at Miami	17-7
Dec. 15	**NEW ORLEANS**	3-17
Dec. 21	**NEW ENGLAND** (Sat.)	22-23

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 1	at Washington	17-14
Sept. 9	at Green Bay (Mon.)	13-39
Sept. 15	**DETROIT**	24-17
Sept. 22	at Atlanta	33-18
Sept. 30	**DALLAS** (Mon.)	19-23
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	at New York Giants	19-10
Oct. 20	**MIAMI**	35-28
Oct. 27	**CAROLINA**	20-9
Nov. 3	at Dallas	31-21
Nov. 10	**BUFFALO**	17-24
Nov. 17	**WASHINGTON**	21-26
Nov. 24	at Arizona	30-36
Dec. 1	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	24-0
Dec. 5	at Indianapolis (Thurs.)	10-37
Dec. 14	at New York Jets (Sat.)	21-20
Dec. 22	**ARIZONA**	29-19

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Sept. 1	**CINCINNATI**	26-16
Sept. 8	at San Francisco	0-34
Sept. 15	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 22	**WASHINGTON**	10-17
Sept. 29	at Arizona	28-31
Oct. 6	**SAN FRANCISCO**	11-28
Oct. 13	at Carolina	13-45
Oct. 20	**JACKSONVILLE**	17-14
Oct. 27	at Baltimore	*31-37
Nov. 3	at Pittsburgh	6-42
Nov. 10	**ATLANTA**	59-16
Nov. 17	**CAROLINA**	10-20
Nov. 24	**GREEN BAY**	9-24
Dec. 1	at New Orleans	26-10
Dec. 8	at Chicago	9-35
Dec. 15	at Atlanta	34-27
Dec. 21	**NEW ORLEANS** (Sat.)	14-13

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 1	**NEW ORLEANS**	27-11
Sept. 8	**ST. LOUIS**	34-0
Sept. 15	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 22	at Carolina	7-23
Sept. 29	**ATLANTA**	39-17
Oct. 6	at St. Louis	28-11
Oct. 14	at Green Bay (Mon.)	*20-23
Oct. 20	**CINCINNATI**	28-21
Oct. 27	at Houston	10-9
Nov. 3	at New Orleans	24-17
Nov. 10	**DALLAS**	*17-20
Nov. 17	**BALTIMORE**	38-20
Nov. 24	at Washington	*19-16
Dec. 2	at Atlanta (Mon.)	34-10
Dec. 8	**CAROLINA**	24-30
Dec. 15	at Pittsburgh	25-15
Dec. 23	**DETROIT** (Mon.)	24-14

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 1	**GREEN BAY**	3-34
Sept. 8	at Detroit	6-21
Sept. 15	at Denver	23-27
Sept. 22	**SEATTLE**	13-17
Sept. 29	**DETROIT**	0-27
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	**MINNESOTA**	24-13
Oct. 20	at Arizona	9-13
Oct. 27	at Green Bay	7-13
Nov. 3	at Chicago	10-13
Nov. 10	**OAKLAND**	*20-17
Nov. 17	at San Diego	25-17
Nov. 24	**NEW ORLEANS**	13-7
Dec. 1	at Carolina	0-24
Dec. 8	**WASHINGTON**	24-10
Dec. 15	at Minnesota	10-21
Dec. 22	**CHICAGO**	34-19

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 1	**PHILADELPHIA**	14-17
Sept. 8	**CHICAGO**	10-3
Sept. 15	at New York Giants	31-10
Sept. 22	at St. Louis	17-10
Sept. 29	**NEW YORK JETS**	31-16
Oct. 6	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	at New England	27-22
Oct. 20	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	31-21
Oct. 27	**INDIANAPOLIS**	31-16
Nov. 3	at Buffalo	13-38
Nov. 10	**ARIZONA**	*34-37
Nov. 17	at Philadelphia	26-21
Nov. 24	**SAN FRANCISCO**	*16-19
Nov. 28	at Dallas (Thurs.)	10-21
Dec. 8	at Tampa Bay	10-24
Dec. 15	at Arizona	26-27
Dec. 22	**DALLAS**	37-10

1996 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
Dallas	10	6	0	.625	286	250
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	363	341
Washington	9	7	0	.563	364	312
Arizona	7	9	0	.438	300	397
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	242	297

CENTRAL	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	456	210
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	298	315
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	283	305
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	221	293
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	302	368

WESTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
Carolina	12	4	0	.750	367	218
San Francisco	12	4	0	.750	398	257
St. Louis	6	10	0	.375	303	409
Atlanta	3	13	0	.188	309	461
New Orleans	3	13	0	.188	229	339

* Overtime

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1996 AFC Results & Standings

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Sept. 1	**OAKLAND**	19-14
Sept. 8	at Pittsburgh	17-31
Sept. 15	at Houston	13-29
Sept. 22	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 29	**NEW ORLEANS**	17-10
Oct. 6	**NEW ENGLAND**	38-46
Oct. 13	at Indianapolis	21-26
Oct. 20	at Denver	34-45
Oct. 27	**ST. LOUIS**	*37-31
Nov. 3	**CINCINNATI**	21-24
Nov. 10	at Jacksonville	27-30
Nov. 17	at San Francisco	20-38
Nov. 24	**JACKSONVILLE**	*25-28
Dec. 1	**PITTSBURGH**	31-17
Dec. 8	at Cincinnati	14-21
Dec. 15	at Carolina	16-27
Dec. 22	**HOUSTON**	21-24

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 1	at New York Giants	*23-20
Sept. 8	**NEW ENGLAND**	17-10
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	6-24
Sept. 22	**DALLAS**	10-7
Sept. 29	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 6	**INDIANAPOLIS**	*16-13
Oct. 13	**MIAMI**	7-21
Oct. 20	at New York Jets	25-22
Oct. 27	at New England	25-28
Nov. 3	**WASHINGTON**	38-13
Nov. 10	at Philadelphia	24-17
Nov. 17	**CINCINNATI**	31-17
Nov. 24	**NEW YORK JETS**	35-10
Dec. 1	at Indianapolis	*10-13
Dec. 8	at Seattle	18-26
Dec. 16	at Miami (Mon.)	14-16
Dec. 22	**KANSAS CITY**	20-9

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 1	at St. Louis	16-26
Sept. 8	at San Diego	14-27
Sept. 15	**NEW ORLEANS**	30-15
Sept. 22	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 29	**DENVER**	10-14
Oct. 6	**HOUSTON**	*27-30
Oct. 13	at Pittsburgh	10-20
Oct. 20	at San Francisco	21-28
Oct. 27	**JACKSONVILLE**	28-21
Nov. 3	at Baltimore	24-21
Nov. 10	**PITTSBURGH**	34-24
Nov. 17	at Buffalo	17-31
Nov. 24	**ATLANTA**	41-31
Dec. 1	at Jacksonville	27-30
Dec. 8	**BALTIMORE**	21-14
Dec. 15	at Houston	21-13
Dec. 22	**INDIANAPOLIS**	31-24

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 1	**NEW YORK JETS**	31-6
Sept. 8	at Seattle	30-20
Sept. 15	**TAMPA BAY**	27-23
Sept. 22	at Kansas City	14-17
Sept. 29	at Cincinnati	14-10
Oct. 6	**SAN DIEGO**	28-17
Oct. 13	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 20	**BALTIMORE**	45-34
Oct. 27	**KANSAS CITY**	34-7
Nov. 4	at Oakland (Mon.)	22-21
Nov. 10	**CHICAGO**	17-12
Nov. 17	at New England	34-8
Nov. 24	at Minnesota	21-17
Dec. 1	**SEATTLE**	34-7
Dec. 8	at Green Bay	6-41
Dec. 15	**OAKLAND**	24-19
Dec. 22	at San Diego	10-16

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 1	**KANSAS CITY**	19-20
Sept. 8	at Jacksonville	34-27
Sept. 15	**BALTIMORE**	29-13
Sept. 22	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 29	at Pittsburgh	16-30
Oct. 6	at Cincinnati	*30-27
Oct. 13	at Atlanta	23-13
Oct. 20	**PITTSBURGH**	23-13
Oct. 27	**SAN FRANCISCO**	9-10
Nov. 3	at Seattle	16-23
Nov. 10	at New Orleans	31-14
Nov. 17	**MIAMI**	20-23
Nov. 24	**CAROLINA**	6-31
Dec. 1	at New York Jets	35-10
Dec. 8	**JACKSONVILLE**	17-23
Dec. 15	**CINCINNATI**	13-21
Dec. 22	at Baltimore	24-21

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 1	**ARIZONA**	20-13
Sept. 8	at New York Jets	21-7
Sept. 15	at Dallas	25-24
Sept. 23	**MIAMI** (Mon.)	10-6
Sept. 29	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 6	at Buffalo	*13-16
Oct. 13	**BALTIMORE**	26-21
Oct. 20	**NEW ENGLAND**	9-27
Oct. 27	at Washington	16-31
Nov. 3	**SAN DIEGO**	19-26
Nov. 10	at Miami	13-37
Nov. 17	**NEW YORK JETS**	34-29
Nov. 24	at New England	13-27
Dec. 1	**BUFFALO**	*13-10
Dec. 5	**PHILADELPHIA** (Thurs.)	37-10
Dec. 15	at Kansas City	24-19
Dec. 22	at Cincinnati	24-31

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Sept. 1	**PITTSBURGH**	24-9
Sept. 8	**HOUSTON**	27-34
Sept. 15	at Oakland	3-17
Sept. 22	at New England	*25-28
Sept. 29	**CAROLINA**	24-14
Oct. 6	at New Orleans	13-17
Oct. 13	**NEW YORK JETS**	21-17
Oct. 20	at St. Louis	14-17
Oct. 27	at Cincinnati	21-28
Nov. 3	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 10	**BALTIMORE**	30-27
Nov. 17	at Pittsburgh	3-28
Nov. 24	at Baltimore	*28-25
Dec. 1	**CINCINNATI**	30-27
Dec. 8	at Houston	23-17
Dec. 15	**SEATTLE**	20-13
Dec. 22	**ATLANTA**	19-17

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 1	at Houston	20-19
Sept. 8	**OAKLAND**	19-3
Sept. 15	at Seattle	35-17
Sept. 22	**DENVER**	17-14
Sept. 29	at San Diego	19-22
Oct. 7	**PITTSBURGH** (Mon.)	7-17
Oct. 13	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	**SEATTLE** (Thurs.)	34-16
Oct. 27	at Denver	7-34
Nov. 3	at Minnesota	21-6
Nov. 10	**GREEN BAY**	27-20
Nov. 17	**CHICAGO**	14-10
Nov. 24	**SAN DIEGO**	14-28
Nov. 28	at Detroit (Thurs.)	28-24
Dec. 9	at Oakland (Mon.)	7-26
Dec. 15	**INDIANAPOLIS**	19-24
Dec. 22	at Buffalo	9-20

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 1	**NEW ENGLAND**	24-10
Sept. 8	at Arizona	38-10
Sept. 15	**NEW YORK JETS**	36-27
Sept. 23	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	6-10
Sept. 29	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 6	**SEATTLE**	15-22
Oct. 13	at Buffalo	21-7
Oct. 20	at Philadelphia	28-35
Oct. 27	**DALLAS**	10-29
Nov. 3	at New England	23-42
Nov. 10	**INDIANAPOLIS**	37-13
Nov. 17	at Houston	23-20
Nov. 25	**PITTSBURGH** (Mon.)	17-24
Dec. 1	at Oakland	7-17
Dec. 8	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	7-17
Dec. 16	**BUFFALO** (Mon.)	16-14
Dec. 22	at New York Jets	31-28

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 1	at Miami	10-24
Sept. 8	at Buffalo	10-17
Sept. 15	**ARIZONA**	31-0
Sept. 22	**JACKSONVILLE**	*28-25
Sept. 29	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 6	at Baltimore	46-38
Oct. 13	**WASHINGTON**	22-27
Oct. 20	at Indianapolis	27-9
Oct. 27	**BUFFALO**	28-25
Nov. 3	**MIAMI**	42-23
Nov. 10	at New York Jets	31-27
Nov. 17	**DENVER**	8-34
Nov. 24	**INDIANAPOLIS**	27-13
Dec. 1	at San Diego	45-7
Dec. 8	**NEW YORK JETS**	34-10
Dec. 15	at Dallas	6-12
Dec. 21	at New York Giants (Sat.)	23-22

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 1	at Denver	6-31
Sept. 8	**INDIANAPOLIS**	7-21
Sept. 15	at Miami	27-36
Sept. 22	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	6-13
Sept. 29	at Washington	16-31
Oct. 6	**OAKLAND**	13-34
Oct. 13	at Jacksonville	17-21
Oct. 20	**BUFFALO**	22-25
Oct. 27	at Arizona	31-21
Nov. 3	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 10	**NEW ENGLAND**	27-31
Nov. 17	at Indianapolis	29-34
Nov. 24	at Buffalo	10-35
Dec. 1	**HOUSTON**	10-35
Dec. 8	at New England	10-34
Dec. 14	**PHILADELPHIA** (Sat.)	20-21
Dec. 22	**MIAMI**	28-31

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 1	at Baltimore	14-19
Sept. 8	at Kansas City	3-19
Sept. 15	**JACKSONVILLE**	17-3
Sept. 22	**SAN DIEGO**	34-40
Sept. 29	at Chicago	17-19
Oct. 6	at New York Jets	34-13
Oct. 13	**DETROIT**	37-21
Oct. 21	at San Diego (Mon.)	23-14
Oct. 27	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	**DENVER** (Mon.)	21-22
Nov. 10	at Tampa Bay	*17-20
Nov. 17	**MINNESOTA**	*13-16
Nov. 24	at Seattle	27-21
Dec. 1	**MIAMI**	17-7
Dec. 9	**KANSAS CITY** (Mon.)	26-7
Dec. 15	at Denver	19-24
Dec. 22	**SEATTLE**	21-28

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 1	at Jacksonville	9-24
Sept. 8	**BALTIMORE**	31-17
Sept. 16	**BUFFALO** (Mon.)	24-6
Sept. 22	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 29	**HOUSTON**	30-16
Oct. 7	at Kansas City (Mon.)	17-7
Oct. 13	**CINCINNATI**	20-10
Oct. 20	at Houston	13-23
Oct. 27	at Atlanta	20-17
Nov. 3	**ST. LOUIS**	42-6
Nov. 10	at Cincinnati	24-34
Nov. 17	**JACKSONVILLE**	28-3
Nov. 25	at Miami (Mon.)	24-17
Dec. 1	at Baltimore	17-31
Dec. 8	**SAN DIEGO**	16-3
Dec. 15	**SAN FRANCISCO**	15-25
Dec. 22	at Carolina	14-18

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 1	**SEATTLE**	29-7
Sept. 8	**CINCINNATI**	27-14
Sept. 15	at Green Bay	10-42
Sept. 22	at Oakland	40-34
Sept. 29	**KANSAS CITY**	22-19
Oct. 6	at Denver	17-28
Oct. 13	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	**OAKLAND** (Mon.)	14-23
Oct. 27	at Seattle	13-32
Nov. 3	at Indianapolis	26-19
Nov. 11	**DETROIT** (Mon.)	27-21
Nov. 17	**TAMPA BAY**	17-25
Nov. 24	at Kansas City	28-14
Dec. 1	**NEW ENGLAND**	7-45
Dec. 8	at Pittsburgh	3-16
Dec. 14	at Chicago (Sat.)	14-27
Dec. 22	**DENVER**	16-10

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 1	at San Diego	7-29
Sept. 8	**DENVER**	20-30
Sept. 15	**KANSAS CITY**	17-35
Sept. 22	at Tampa Bay	17-13
Sept. 29	**GREEN BAY**	10-31
Oct. 6	at Miami	22-15
Oct. 13	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	at Kansas City (Thurs.)	16-34
Oct. 27	**SAN DIEGO**	32-13
Nov. 3	**HOUSTON**	23-16
Nov. 10	**MINNESOTA**	42-23
Nov. 17	at Detroit	16-17
Nov. 24	**OAKLAND**	21-27
Dec. 1	at Denver	7-34
Dec. 8	**BUFFALO**	26-18
Dec. 15	at Jacksonville	13-20
Dec. 22	at Oakland	28-21

1996 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
New England	11	5	0	.688	418	313
Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	319	266
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	317	334
Miami	8	8	0	.500	339	325
N.Y. Jets	1	15	0	.063	279	454

CENTRAL	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	344	257
Jacksonville	9	7	0	.563	325	335
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	372	369
Houston	8	8	0	.500	345	319
Baltimore	4	12	0	.250	371	441

WESTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
Denver	13	3	0	.813	391	275
Kansas City	9	7	0	.563	297	300
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	310	376
Oakland	7	9	0	.438	340	293
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	317	376

* Overtime

10-08-95

On October 8th, Dan Marino had a date with history.

8:05 a.m.
Time to get up.

9:10 a.m.
Three pieces of toast, coffee, carbo drink.

10:08 a.m.
Pours over personal game notes.

11:13 a.m.
Gets taped.

11:55 a.m.
As always, has Kosar pull on jersey.

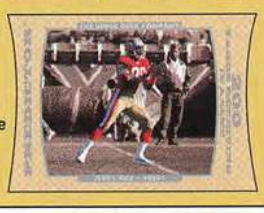
2:13 p.m.
Sixty-three Quick Short Back to Keith Byars to set the completion record.

7:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.

And Upper Deck™ made a card out of it.

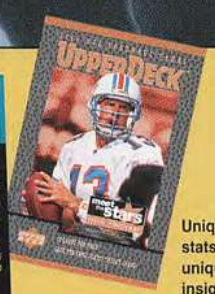
Upper Deck™ '96 Football.

With game dated photos, it's one historic card set.



TV-Cel Predictor™ cards allow you to score when they score.

First ever! Actual game worn jersey cards!



Unique stats and unique insights.

UPPER D·E·C·K™

meet the Stars trivia challenge

Play Meet the Stars and you could meet Dan Marino!

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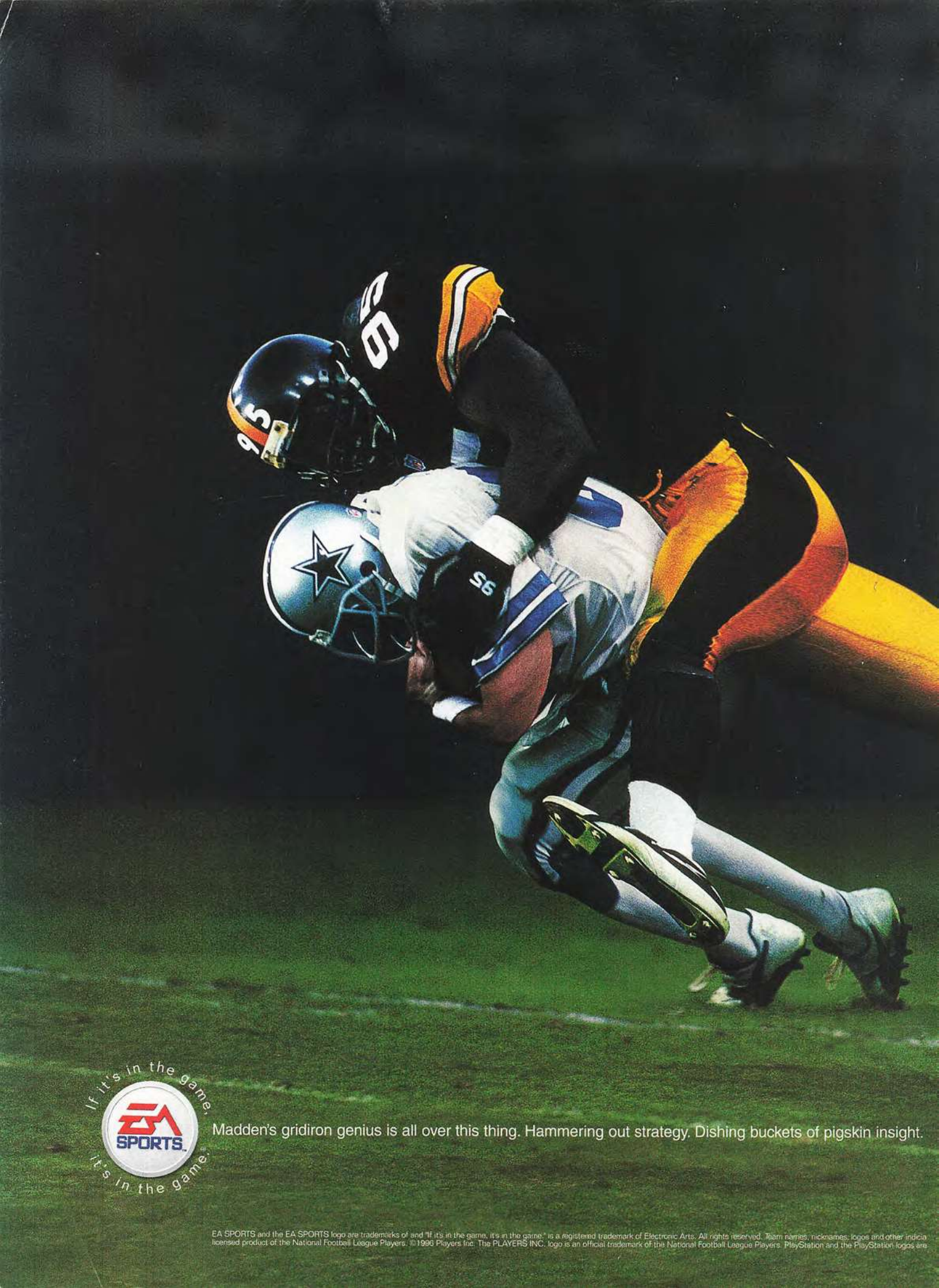
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it's in the game.
EA SPORTS
Madden's gridiron genius is all over this thing. Hammering out strategy. Dishing buckets of pigskin insight.

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Out here brick walls have 4.5 speed.

And rapid-fire analysis. The most epic football mind ever. This is the Ultimate Judge.™ Catch it.

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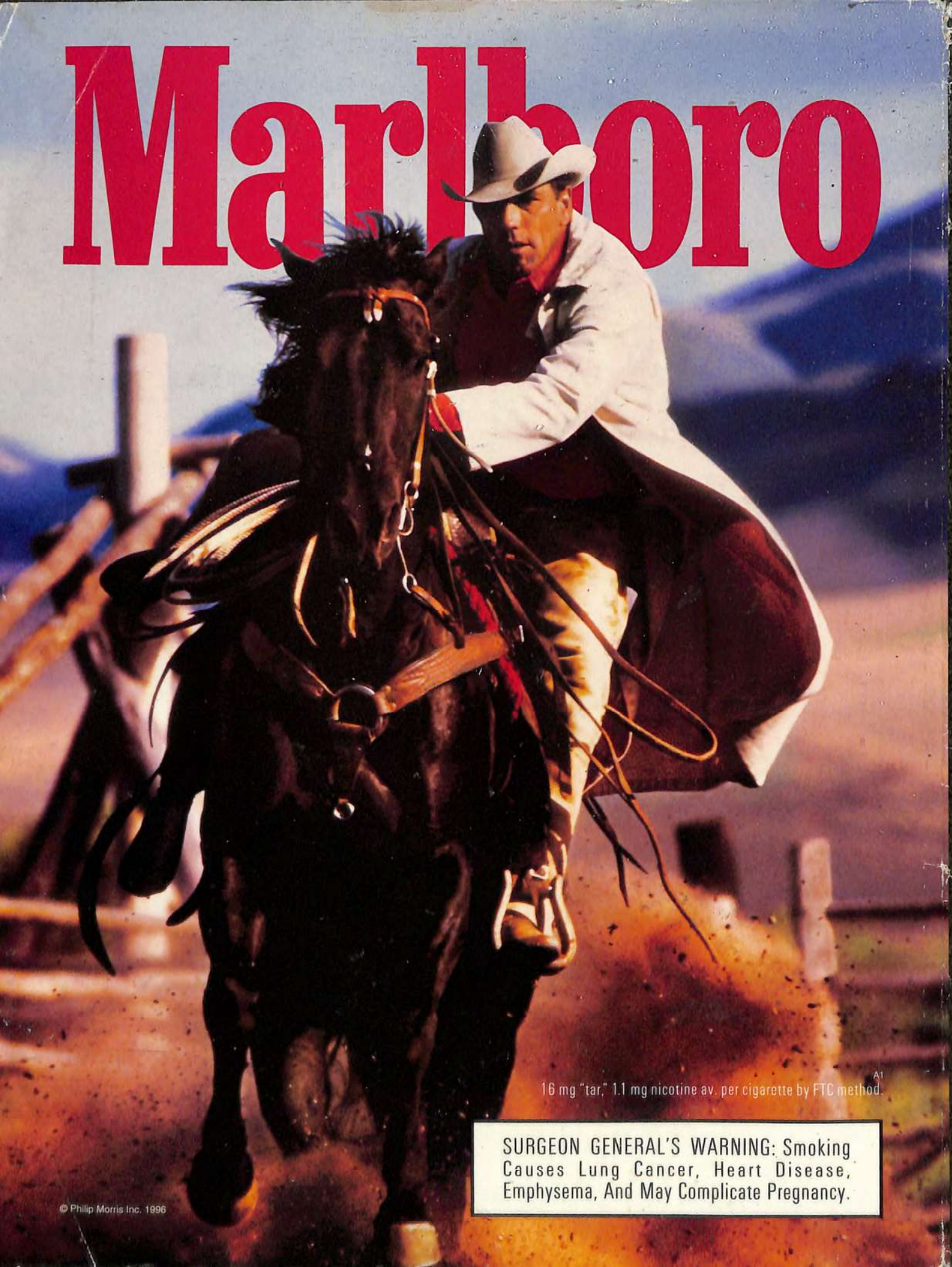
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A1
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